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Dorset Middle Stour River Catchment

Aerial Investigation and Mapping Project

F Fleming and C Royall

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Summary

The landscape surrounding the Stour Valley in East Dorset is predominantly rural, comprising areas of distinct and contrasting landscape character. Chalk downlands give way to rolling pastures and stream-cut combes and the wide floodplain of the River Stour. The rich archaeology of the area has a long time-depth that reflects the human story of the place as well as its fragility and vulnerability to external factors such as modern farming regimes and expanding urban development. This report presents the results of a systematic survey of a range of archaeological sites visible as earthworks, cropmarks and structures on aerial photographs and lidar imagery within a 213 square kilometre area of East Dorset incorporating the middle section of the Stour river catchment, including its tributaries, the rivers Tarrant and Winterborne. Parts of the project area fall within the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes, designated and protected for their Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project has significantly enhanced existing baseline data through the mapping, interpretation and recording of 2,258 archaeological sites, of which 1,827 were previously unrecorded in county or national databases. The results will be available for use by local communities, researchers, policy makers and managers of the historic and natural environment.

Contributors

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Acknowledgements

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Front cover image: Badbury Rings, Dorset [EAW010547 30-AUG-1947 © Historic England (Aerofilms Collection)]

Archive location

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Dorset HER, Dorset Council

OASIS id – cornwall2-521710

Date of survey/research/investigation

The analysis, mapping and recording were carried out between February 2022 and August 2023. The report was written between September and November 2023.

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Introduction

The Dorset Middle Stour River Catchment Aerial Investigation and Mapping (AI&M) project was carried out by Cornwall Archaeological Unit and grant funded by Historic England's National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (NHPCP). The project commenced in February 2022 and was undertaken to Historic England (HE) standards. It completed in February 2024.

The project area covers 213 square kilometres of East Dorset, comprising the middle catchment of the Stour River from Sturminster Marshall north westwards to Blandford Forum, Dorset, extending northwards along The Tarrant and south eastwards along the River Winterborne. The landscape of the project area is largely rural in character, comprising rolling chalk downland and woodland pastures where farming predominates.

Historic England's aerial investigation and mapping projects enhance our understanding of past land use and provide primary information and syntheses for historic landscapes under significant threat from modern impacts such as development and infrastructure projects, farming and agri-environmental schemes and, increasingly, the impacts of climate change. The Middle Stour, Tarrant and Winterborne valleys that form the majority of the project area have been under-recorded in terms of their historic environment resource and have been considered areas of highest priority in the county for aerial investigation and mapping (C Pinder 2022, pers comm). Options for urban growth around Blandford Forum, which potentially includes the future re-use of Blandford Camp, present a major risk factor for the project area. Additionally, increasing flood risk and significant historical modifications to the river courses have already seen impacts, generating a number of catchment management partnerships and restoration projects. Being a predominantly rural landscape, the project area, which incorporates parts of both the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes, is also at risk from agricultural regimes and rural management schemes, such as those contained within Defra's (2020) Agricultural Transition Plan.

Modern farming regimes have proved to have particularly destructive impacts in areas with thin topsoils such as the chalk downland of East Dorset (compare Woodward 1991; Gingell 1992). The most recent Cranborne Chase National Landscape Management Plan (CCAONB 2019, 62) identifies ploughing, planting and unsuitable grazing as potentially inappropriate management of heritage assets. Both the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes Management Plans identify heritage assets that are already considered by Historic England to be vulnerable or 'at Risk' (CCAONB 2019, 62; DAONB 2019, 75) and both equally consider the under recording of archaeological sites and

monuments to be an issue against fully understanding the heritage resource in order to be able to implement best management practice. There is a recognised need, therefore, for taking practical action to conserve and protect vulnerable monuments and historic landscapes, which would benefit from improved information and interpretation. AI&M survey is particularly useful in increasing understanding of known sites and in identifying new ones, enabling better understanding of the archaeology of an area and the context of any surviving remains.

This project systematically recorded the archaeological resource of the project area to Historic England AI&M standards (see Evans 2019) through the review of all readily available aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Results from the project will facilitate a fuller assessment of the archaeological resource of the area, provide essential data previously lacking within the Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes and will feed into the national Statutory Designations list. This report presents background and highlights from the project and discusses selected monuments and themes along with recommendations to help inform future strategic planning and research frameworks for the area.

The project's primary outputs, the digital mapping and monuments records, have been added to Dorset Council's HER and the mapping also added to Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer (arcgis.com). Alongside additional online resources such as Heritage Gateway https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ and Historic England's recently launched Aerial photo Explorer https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos/, the project results will also help enhance public awareness and enjoyment of the heritage resource of the project area and its archaeological potential.

The Project Area

The project covers 213 square kilometres of East Dorset. It comprises the middle catchment of the Stour River from Sturminster Marshall north westwards to Blandford Forum, Dorset, extending northwards along The Tarrant and south eastwards along the River Winterborne. The northeastern corner of the project area incorporates part of the Cranborne Chase National Landscape, the northwestern corner part of the Dorset National Landscape (Fig 1).

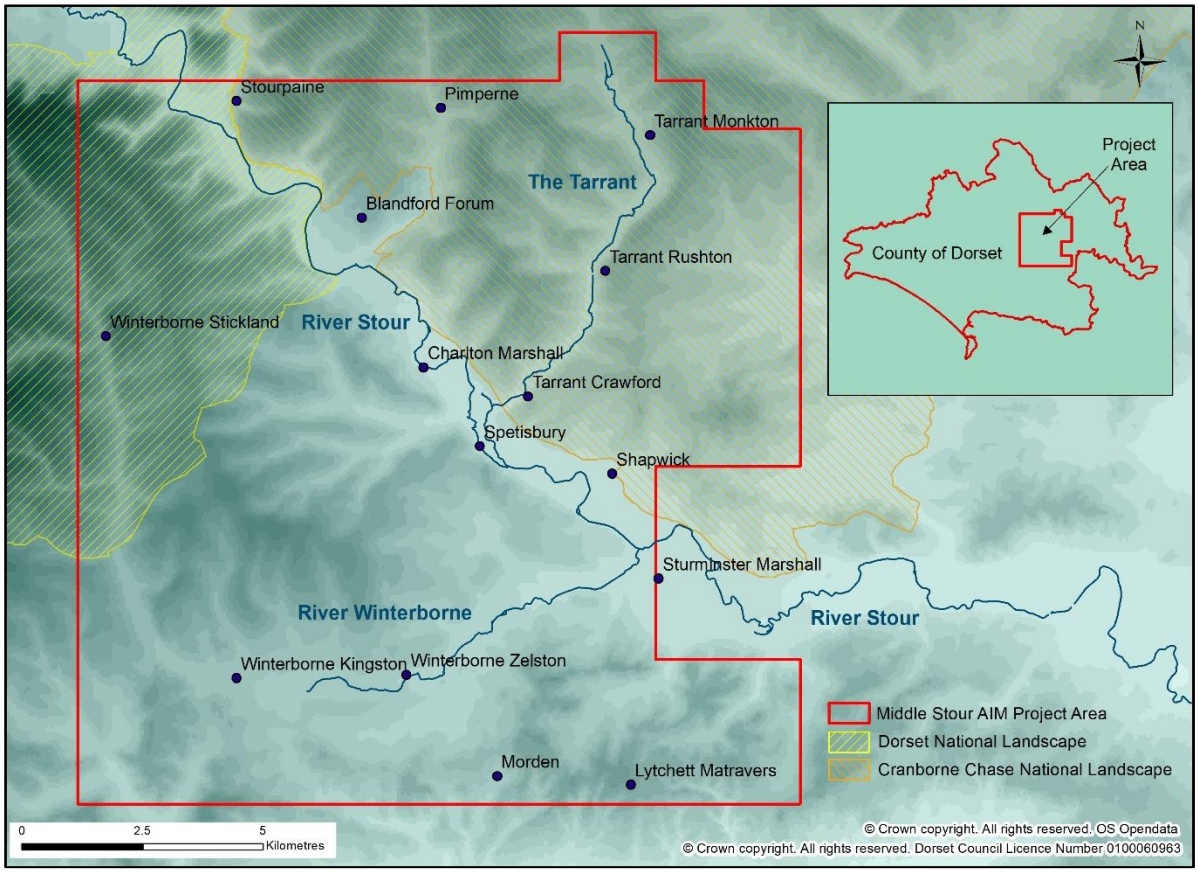

Figure 1: The location of the Dorset Middle Stour River Catchment AI&M project area.

Two completed aerial mapping surveys, the Lower Stour AI&M and the Wild Purbeck NMP (part of the former National Mapping Programme), border the project area to the east and south respectively (Fig 2). The Lower Stour AI&M project (Fleming and Royall 2020) comprised an area of 293 square kilometres of East Dorset, made up of low-lying acid

heathland within the river basin in the southeast of the project area, rising to the chalk downlands of Cranborne Chase to the northwest. That project created 2,675 monument records, of which 2,193 were for newly identified sites. These ranged between Neolithic to mid-20th century in date, with the largest concentrations on the chalk downlands forming the eastern edge of Cranborne Chase (ibid). The Purbeck NMP project (Royall 2015) comprised 346 square kilometres of southeast Dorset, stretching from Swanage and the edge of Poole Harbour in the east to Puddletown and Chaldon in the west. That project created 2,328 monument records, of which 1,934 were for newly identified sites. As with the Lower Stour AI&M project, sites ranged between Neolithic to mid-20th century in date and were distributed across the project area, with the highest concentrations on the higher valley slopes and ridgeways (ibid).

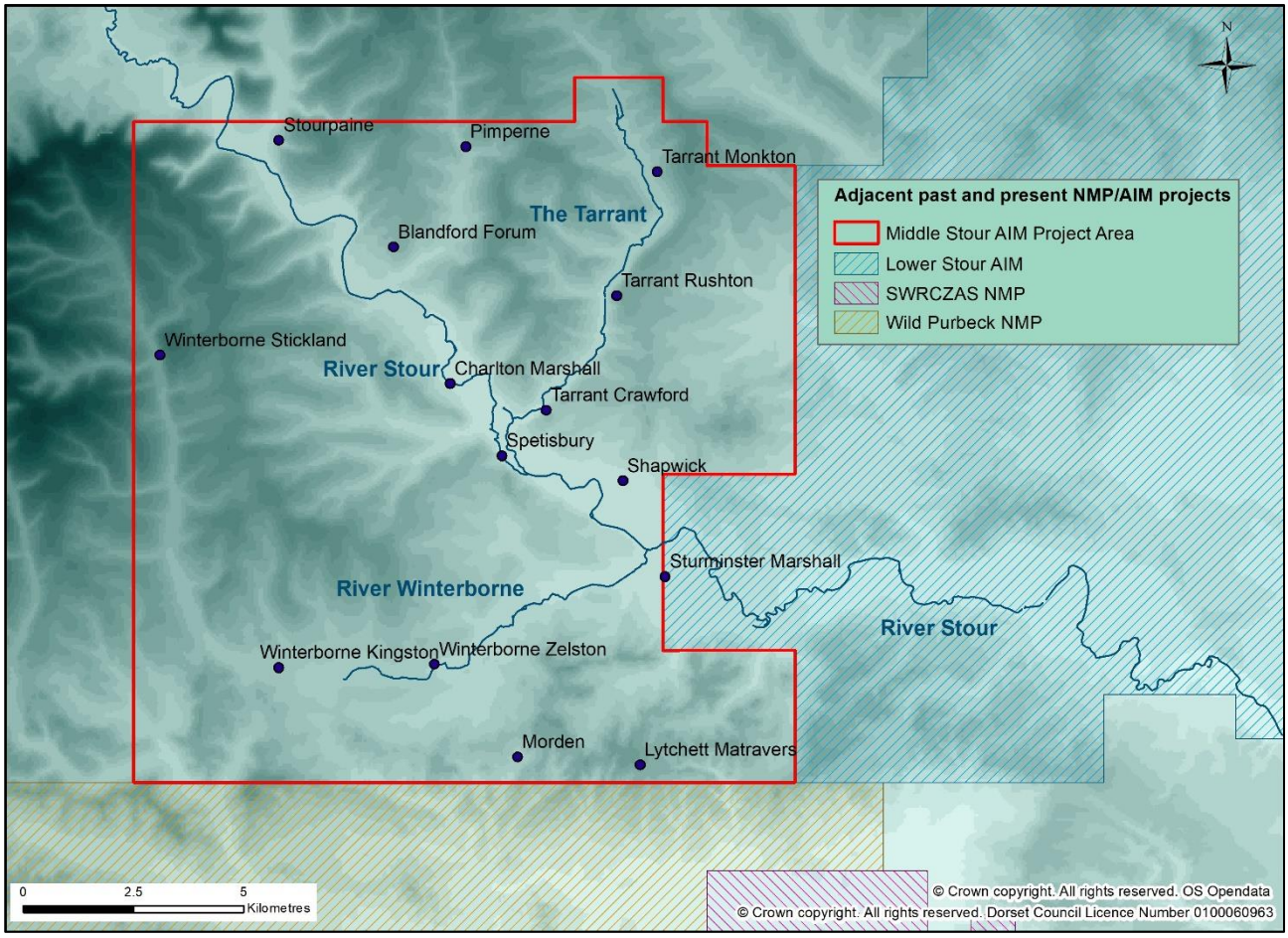

Figure 2: Previously completed AI&M projects relative to the project area.

Geology

The project area is situated within the Hampshire Basin, formed by the movement and folding of deep bedrock between the late Devonian and late Carboniferous periods (Hart 2009, 14). It is dominated by Upper Cretaceous White Chalk, a sedimentary bedrock deposited by a vast, warm, shallow sea that covered much of Europe between 99 and 65 million years ago (British Geological Survey (BGS) 2023; NE 2013). Weathering of the chalk surface over time has produced superficial deposits of clay-with-flints across some areas of the higher chalk scarps and plateaux, one of these extending into the far northwest corner of the project area (Fig 3).

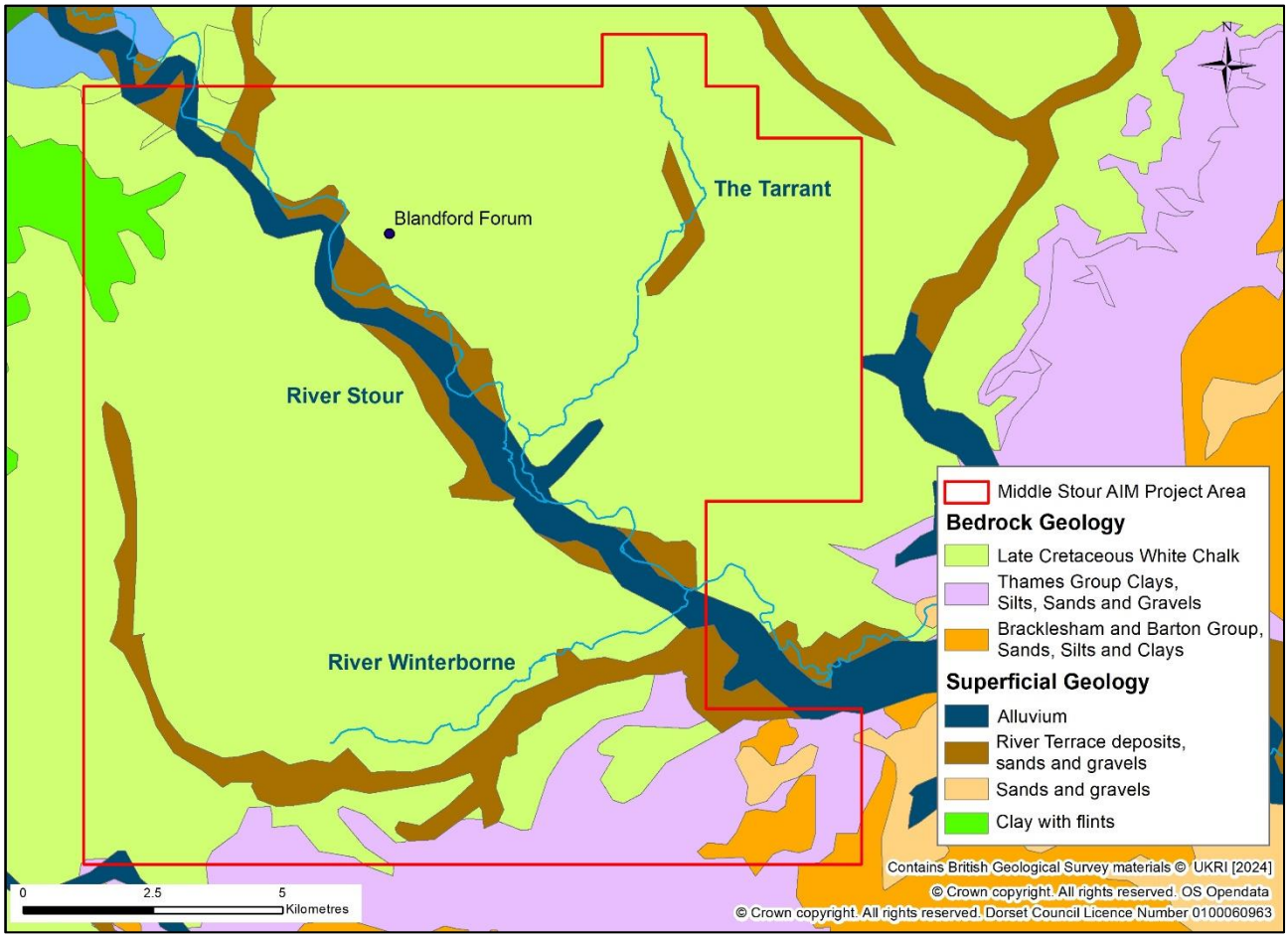

Figure 3: Map showing the bedrock and superficial geology of the study area.

The high chalk ridges fall away in a gentle dip slope to the southeast, eventually running below sands, silts, clays and gravel deposits of the Thames and Bracklesham and Barton

Groups (BGS 2023). These deposits represent some of the youngest sedimentary deposits in southeast Dorset, dating to the Eocene period. Quaternary deposits of alluvium and river terrace sands and gravels are to be found within the major river valleys of the project area, alongside further patchy superficial deposits of sands and gravels extending into its far southeastern corner (Fig 3).

Thin chalky rendzina soils predominate on the higher chalk ridges, with some ridges and hilltops capped by localised acidic drifts, sometimes clay-with-flints. Rendzina soils are generally poorly suited to arable farming and the chalk uplands typically support grassland under pasture, with areas of woodland and semi-natural vegetation. In the valley bottoms, alluvial deposits give rise to more neutral loamy brown earths, well-drained fertile soils that typically support more arable regimes (LandIS 2023; NE 2013).

Soils in chalk areas are an outstanding source of clear and detailed archaeological information. The fills of archaeological features such as pits and ditches show up in distinct contrast to the chalk when visible as soil marks. Cropmark formation in chalky soils is also particularly good, owing to their higher moisture retention. The development of cropmarks over chalk goes through two distinct phases, however. The first occurs when primary water stores from features such as pits and ditches is drawn up by the plants within these, making them appear darker in contrast to the rest of the crop. Where there is prolonged drought, however, the water content of ditches and pits becomes used up and the crops on the chalk bedrock access the deeper water storage there, creating a reversed tonal effect; ditches appearing as lighter tones, banks as darker tones (Wilson 1982, 45, 55).

The chalk grasslands of Dorset have high archaeological significance. The lack of continuous cultivation in these areas has resulted in the preservation of earthworks associated with Neolithic through to Roman period activity which remain clearly visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Even in more arable areas where there has been repeated ploughing, the chalk geology can preserve much reduced earthworks, which might not be visible on aerial photographs, but which can be identified using Lidar. Lidar has also proved particularly useful in revealing archaeological earthworks within areas of woodland, of which there are many within the project area, making it possible to map features that would otherwise go unrecorded.

Landscape character and topography

The project area is situated within National Character Area (NCA) 134; the Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase (NE 2013). National Character Areas (NCAs) are sections of the countryside that share similar landscape characteristics and follow natural lines in the landscape, not administrative boundaries.

The Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase NCA 134 incorporates parts of Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire and extends from east of Bridport to the outskirts of Salisbury. Underlain by the southwestern extent of England's Cretaceous White Chalk, the NCA is characterised by a landscape of scarp, plateau and dip slope dissected by a network of river valleys and deep stream-cut combes. Within the project area, the landscape is dominated by a series of these valleys and combes that rise up to the higher ridges and scarps of the chalk uplands towards its northwestern extent. Cutting a swathe through the project area from northwest to southeast is the wide valley and floodplain of the River Stour, with two major tributaries, The Tarrant and River Winterborne, running into this from the north and southwest (NE 2013) (Figs 1 and 2).

The higher scarps and plateaux of NCA 134 are typically clothed by calcareous grasslands, with the rolling open chalk downland under a mainly arable regime. Within Cranborne Chase, grand houses, large agricultural estates, parks and large tracts of relict ancient woodland predominate. The rolling landscape of the chalk dip slope comprises large-scale arable fields with narrow hedgerows and small blocks of woodland. A more intimate and older (often medieval in origin) enclosed mixed-farming landscape exists within the valleys and combes (NE 2013).

The NCA has one of the largest densities of prehistoric monuments in Europe and numerous ancient settlement sites, long barrows and burial mounds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are known across the area. This landscape is historically well-settled but in the present-day is relatively sparsely populated by scattered isolated farmsteads, with a network of widely spaced roads, footpaths and bridleways. Some of the roads follow old Roman routes across the high downland.

The river valleys that cut through the chalk dip slope are of more densely settled character, with villages and hamlets positioned along the spring line at the foot of the slopes, in sheltered pockets linked by ancient lanes. Within these areas the earthworks of shrunken and deserted medieval villages and settlements can be found. Extensive tracts of relict field systems can also be widely identified across the project area, especially visible as earthworks on lidar imagery. Post-medieval water meadows and watercress beds are also characteristics of the river valleys.

Archaeological Scope and Methodology

Archaeological scope

The AI&M Sphere of Interest is defined as all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks and earthworks, along with some structures. The earliest sites recognised on aerial photographs usually date from the Neolithic onwards. The mapping of structures typically relates to 20th century military sites but can include some features associated with post-medieval industrial or agricultural activities. AI&M projects therefore record all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs with a date range from the Neolithic to the 20th century.

The AI&M mapping is designed to be viewed against an OS base map and therefore AI&M projects do not usually record non-archaeological features visible on aerial photographs and depicted on the modern base map and still in use, such as buildings, field walls, hedges, canals and railways. In some contexts, however, it may have been appropriate to map structures visible on historic maps, determined by the archaeological context or significance, or for clarification or enhancement of historically mapped features. These might include, but not be restricted to, features such as field boundaries, shooting butts, sheepfolds, relict quarries, canals, railways, tracks etc. The full scope of mapped archaeological features is given in Appendix 1.

Sources

Aerial photographs

Nearly 100 years of aerial reconnaissance has taken place in the project area. The primary source of aerial photographs used in this project was loaned from the Historic England Archive (HEA) collection in Swindon (see Appendix 1 for further details). These included vertical aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force (RAF) in the years during and after the Second World War, as well as those from flights carried out by the Ordnance Survey (OS) in the 1960s, and by Meridian Airmaps (MAL) from the 1970s onwards.

The HEA also holds a large collection of oblique prints, including military obliques taken by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in the 1940s and 50s and a collection of specialist oblique prints, slides and digital images taken for archaeological purposes and ranging in date from the 1950s to the present day. The HEA photographic collection provided the bulk of the oblique coverage available to this project. The earliest specialist oblique photographs held include those taken by OGS Crawford in the 1920s, and later in the 1970s from the John Boyden Collection, as well as the Aerofilms Collection, the earliest images of which

also date to the 1920s and 1930s. Aerofilms Ltd was a pioneering air survey company set up in 1919 by First World War veterans Francis Lewis Wills and Claude Grahame-White. In addition to their own imagery the firm purchased smaller collections including those of AeroPictorial (1934-1960) and Airviews (1947-1991). Those parts of the collection that cover England are now curated by HE and a large part of the full collection is available online on the Britain from Above website (Britain From Above).

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) holds an important national collection containing a number of vertical photographs taken for a range of non-archaeological purposes as well as specialist oblique photography resulting from archaeological reconnaissance. This important collection was not accessible during the lifetime of the project.

In all, 5,319 photographs were consulted from the HEA collection. These included 2,853 vertical prints, 2,413 specialist oblique prints and 53 military oblique prints. Additional digital imagery assessed by the project included 12.5cm resolution vertical aerial photographic imagery, and colour infrared, provided by Next Perspectives through the Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) agreement. Online photographic images from Google Earth were also accessed via the internet.

Lidar tiles

Airborne laser scanning also known as lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) has become an invaluable tool for archaeological survey over recent years (Historic England 2018). It is particularly useful in areas where conventional aerial photography is of little benefit, such as in woodland, as well as allowing the identification of very low earthworks in arable fields which would not otherwise be picked up by conventional photography. The benefits of using lidar for archaeological recording have been previously recognized (Bewley et al 2005; Carpenter *et al* 2016; Devereux *et al* 2005; Hesse 2010; Royall 2013).

The Environment Agency (Geomatics) has been carrying out lidar surveys of the country since 2000. Initially, only the Composite lidar tiles were accessed by this project, which gave good lidar data cover for much of the project area in resolutions ranging from 50cm to 2m. The National lidar dataset was subsequently accessed at 1m and 2m resolutions, which provided full coverage of the project area. The lidar tiles were downloaded as .tif files which were then converted into hillshades, gradient slope and LRM tiles using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT) developed by the Institute of Anthropological and Spatial Studies at the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Relief Visualization Toolbox (RVT) | ZRC SAZU (zrc-sazu.si)).

Datasets

Data from the Dorset HER was provided to the project team as a series of GIS shapefiles with attached object data.

Monument data for the study area from the Historic England Research Records database was provided digitally by HE to the project team at the start of the project in a series of PDF files and GIS shapefiles. This data comprised records formerly held by the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE), currently being amalgamated into County HERs under Historic England's Heritage Information Access Simplified (HIAS) programme. Data from the from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE - Scheduled Monuments) was downloaded as a GIS shapefile from data.gov.uk under Open Government Licence.

Map sources

The current OS MasterMap data was used as the primary source of control for the rectification of aerial photographs and to aid mapping. The Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping dating from the late 19th century and early 20th century (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th editions) was also consulted to further understand the archaeology of the project area and to aid interpretation of specific sites.

Methodology

The project followed current Historic England AI&M standards. These have been developed over time by Historic England and its precursors. Numerous landscape mapping projects carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME), such as the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997) and Thames Gravels (Fenner and Dyer 1994), helped develop a set of techniques and standards which became formalised as the NMP (Evans 2019). The aim of the NMP was 'to enhance our understanding about past human settlement, by providing information and syntheses for all archaeological sites and landscapes (visible on aerial photographs) from the Neolithic period to the 20th century' (Bewley 2001, 78). The guiding principle of NMP was 'to map, describe and classify all archaeological sites recorded by aerial photography in England to a consistent standard' (English Heritage 2017).

AI&M standards build on the work carried out by the NMP and continue to facilitate a systematic methodology to the interpretation and mapping of archaeological features visible on aerial photographs and lidar (Winton 2015; Evans 2019). This includes not only recording sites visible as cropmarks and earthworks but also upstanding and removed structures, some of which relate to 20th century military activities. This comprehensive synthesis of the archaeological information available is intended to assist research, inform

planning and guide protection of the historic environment as well as enhance public benefit and enjoyment of the Country's rich heritage resource.

Transcription

The Dorset Middle Stour River Catchment Project followed standard AI&M methodology (Evans 2019). Oblique or vertical photographs were scanned and then rectified using AERIAL 5.36 software. Control was derived from the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale MasterMap® vector data. Digital terrain models derived from 5m interval contour data supplied by Next Perspectives were used to improve the accuracy of the rectification. Archaeological features were traced off geo-referenced and rectified aerial photographs or lidar visualisations using ArcView GIS v10.7.1.

A combination of aerial photographs and lidar were used to map archaeological features and interpretations were based on morphological comparison to well-known site types, topographical location and other published evidence. The mapping was produced entirely in digital format, archaeological features being digitally transcribed according to a nationally agreed layer structure and using agreed line and colour conventions as specified by Historic England (Winton 2015; Evans 2019 and see Appendix 1). Quality assurance checks were carried out on selected map sheets to ensure that all sheets were completed to AI&M standards.

Project database

Data for all features mapped during the project was input into the Dorset HBSMR v6 database via a remote link. This database automatically generated unique Project UID numbers (Prefixed MDO) and contained fields enabling monument indexing to be carried out to HEA and ALGAO standards. Appropriate data was entered into this database for each archaeological feature mapped (data recorded included summary, description, photographic references, site type and period, locational information and details of the interpreter).

Data exchange

The mapped data was provided to the HE as GIS shapefiles for incorporation into the HE Corporate GIS. All data supplied was to AI&M monument recording standards and in line with HE minimum standards for monument recording.

Copies of the Project Design, Final Report and all other relevant project documentation will be deposited with HE. The PDF version of the report will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

Overview of Mapping and Results

This section presents a chronological overview of selected key themes identified during the project, which have been chosen for their distinctiveness to the project area and/or because they add to current understanding of national or regional themes discussed in previous NMP/AI&M projects in Dorset and wider afield.

A quantification of the project findings in terms of overall numbers of sites recorded, their form, survival and distribution, along with a breakdown of sites by period, is included as Appendix 3. All archaeological features mapped by the project are shown in Figure 4.

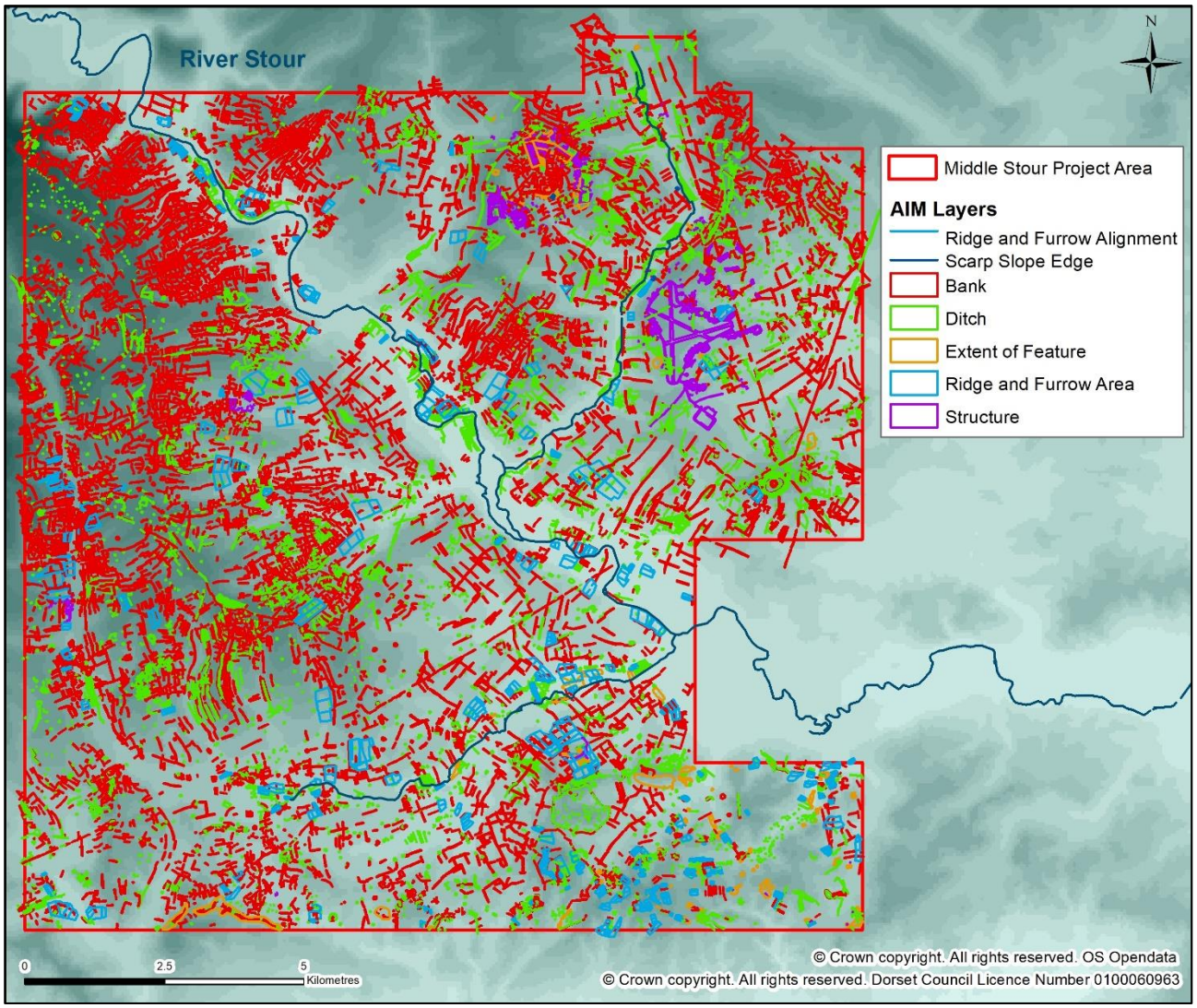

Figure 4: All mapping created during the project.

The themes presented below are intended to provide a contextual discussion of the main results and their significance using selected case studies as illustration. Some sites and period topics are therefore excluded from this section. The monumental landscapes of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age are a significant theme. Patterns of land organisation and territoriality, settlement development and agricultural exploitation through later prehistory and into the Roman and medieval periods are also of note. There is a particular concentration of distinctively Roman sites within the study area, particularly concentrated around the area of Badbury Rings and the conjunction of the Roman roads linking Poole, Dorchester, Salisbury and Bath. Another significant theme is the wartime history of the project area, with a range of First and Second World War military sites identified; many already documented but with significant enhancement resulting from the mapping project, others discovered for the first time.

All sites mapped were recorded remotely into the Dorset HER HBSMR database. This generates unique project record numbers which are prefixed MDO; a small number of existing sites are prefixed MWX. All sites discussed will be referenced using these prefixed HBSMR numbers and these can also be used to refer to relevant monument records via the Heritage Gateway website (HeritageGateway - Home *).

Expressions of monumentality and control

The early to middle Neolithic (6-5 ka BP) in Britain corresponded with a shift towards arable agriculture and pastoralism in northern Europe. Gradual and piecemeal clearance of the natural woodland is thought to have occurred from around 4000-3000BC as early communities began to imprint their control on the land and establish markers in the landscape. Palaeoenvironmental studies have shown that open grassland was present in the Avebury and Stonehenge areas from at least the early Neolithic period (Bell and Walker 2005, 204; 223). Areas of the chalk downlands of Dorset and Wessex corresponding with some of the predominant foci for prehistoric activity were also probably open grassland at this time (compare French *et al* 2007). During this period new forms of domestic and monumental architecture were adopted (Bell and Walker 2005, 223-5; Oswald *et al* 2001, 1-2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 4-5). In Dorset, the greatest concentration of such monuments is to be found on the chalk downlands; this could potentially be due as much to a bias of survival and visibility in these areas as to an accuracy of distribution, but the wider indications are that during later prehistory these areas were a principal focus of human activity.

Long barrows were the first monuments to appear (by around 3800 cal BC), followed by causewayed enclosures (by around 3700-3600 cal BC). These two types of monuments

are often found in close association with each other (Historic England 2018b, 8; Historic England 2018c; Oswald *et al* 2001, 2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 1; 204). Whilst the precise function and dating of these monument types remains unclear, they appear to represent the beginnings of establishing social 'anchors' in the landscape; for community gathering, honouring the dead and establishing a sense of place. They may also have been places where concepts of identity and authority first began to be explored and expressed, at a time when the balance between human societies and the landscape they lived in was changing (Oswald *et al* 2001, 2; Whittle *et al* 2011, 11).

Long barrows

Traditionally, long barrows comprise elongated mounds of material, rarely more than 50m in length and up to 25m wide, sometimes slightly trapezoidal or oval in form and often with one end higher and wider than the other (Historic England 2018b, 2). Invariably the mounds have ditches alongside from which the material of the mound may in part derive. Two basic traditions of mound construction are found in southern England; those with unchambered mounds of stone and earth and those which contain stone chambers (Gale 2003, 33; Historic England 2018b, 2). Both forms are found in Dorset, although those with confirmed stone-built chambers are in the minority, being concentrated just to the west of Dorchester, for example the Grey Mare and her Colts (Gale 2003, 34).

The majority of long barrows known to date are located on elevated ground, typically on, or to one side of, ridges. This may infer the need for prominence and visibility, perhaps as a form of territorial marker. The distribution of long barrows in Dorset is almost exclusively on the chalk downland, with only two recorded examples on a different geology (Gillingham on limestone and Holdenhurst on alluvial gravels) (Gale 2003, 34). The orientation of long barrows in southern England generally conforms to an east-west alignment. This pattern is usually observed for sites in Dorset, excepting the barrows located on Cranborne Chase, which are situated on north northwest-south southeast ridges and noticeably orientate along these (Gale 2003, 34). Field (2006, 102) observes that the perceived lack of long barrows in lowland landscapes may partially be due to agricultural activity levelling such monuments. Current research is increasingly showing the presence of ploughed out barrows in general within lowland landscapes, particularly along river valleys (Historic England 2018b, 7).

A total of 14 long barrows and eight oval barrows were recorded by the project. These include a long barrow (MDO5135) on Little Down, Tarrant Rawston. The barrow is located on a narrow ridgetop running from northwest to southeast above the River Stour at around 100m OD. It aligns northwest to southeast and is just over 40m in length and 17m wide, slightly wider at its southeast end. The mound is flanked by a ditch on either side, around

8-10m wide. Several Bronze Age bowl barrows are situated in close proximity to the long barrow, one (MDO5137) immediately at its southeast corner (Fig 5).

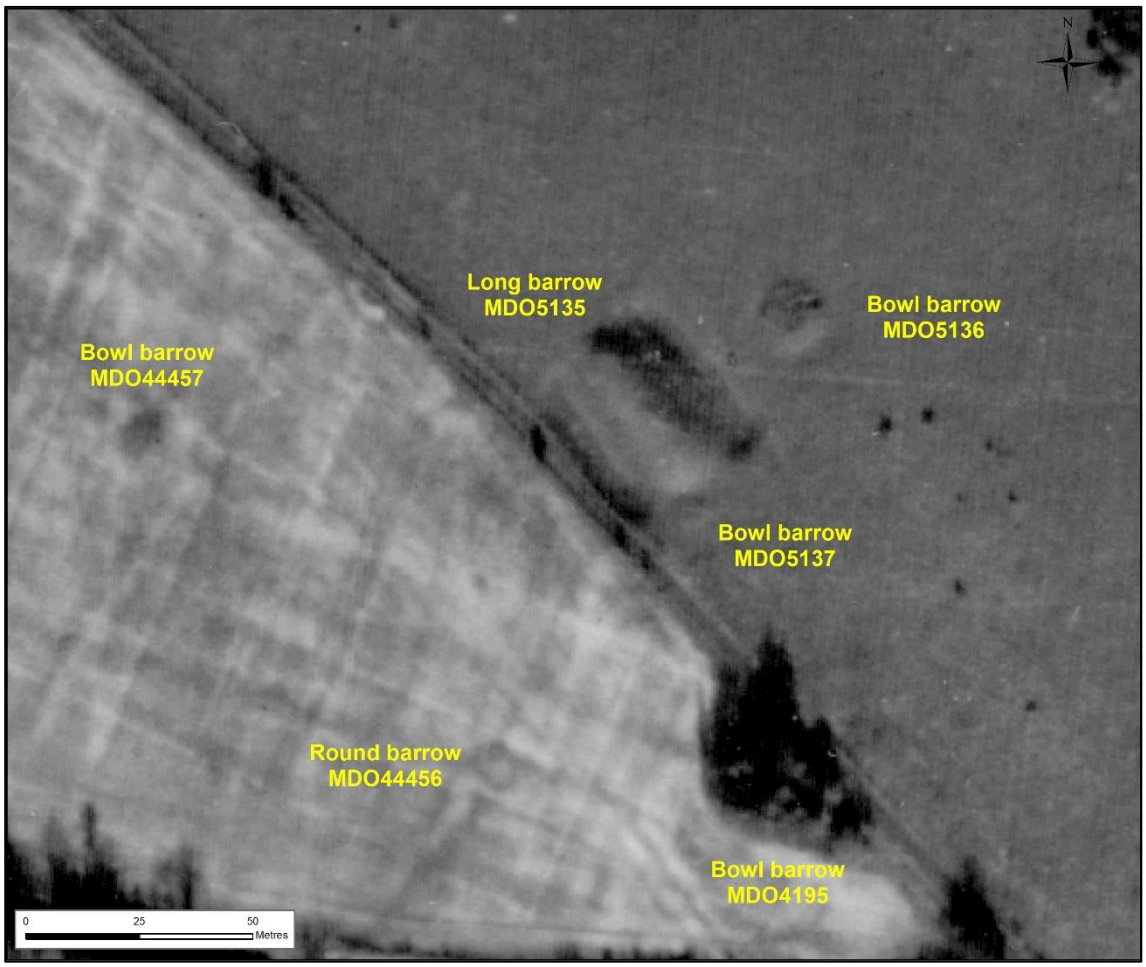

Figure 5: Neolithic long barrow and Bronze Age barrow cemetery, Little Down, Tarrant Rawston [RAF/CPE/UK/2431 RS 4320 01-JAN-1948 Historic England RAF Photography].

Two possible oval barrows (MDO46370 and 46371) of potentially Middle Neolithic date are situated on a south facing spur of ground above Millum Head, Bere Regis, at around 50-60m OD. The two barrows are 25m and 20m long respectively and both are encircled by an outer ditch. Each of the oval barrows has a Bronze Age round barrow in close proximity, the two southernmost in a linear barrow cemetery. The cemetery is cut by a Roman road (MDO46374), with the oval barrows to either side (Fig 6).

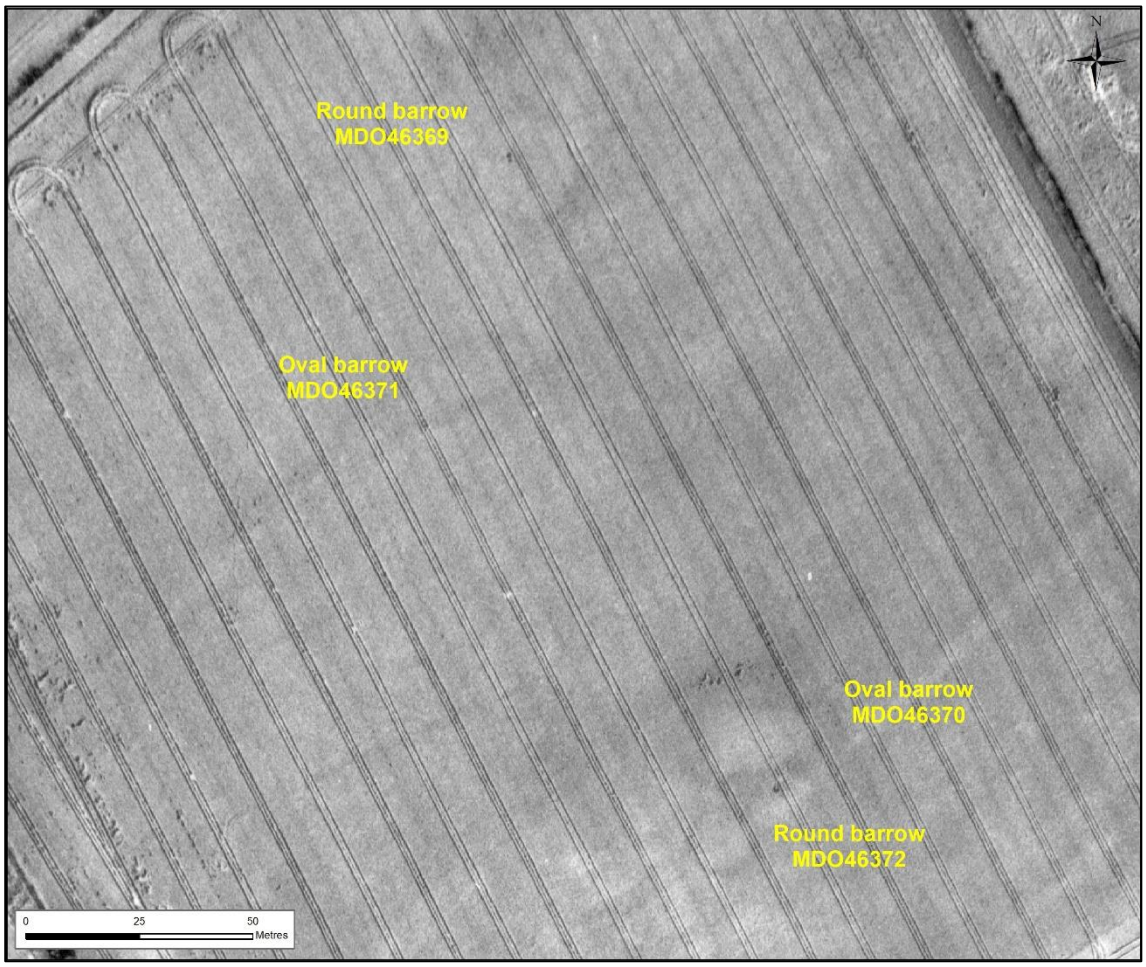

Figure 6: Oval barrows and a linear Bronze Age barrow cemetery, Millum Head, Bere Regis [NMR 4527/30 11-JUN-1989 © Historic England NMR].

Long barrow at Blandford Camp

A long barrow (MDO4954) on the northern edge of Blandford Camp is now under tree cover but lidar imagery reveals the feature, along with modifications that possibly relate to its adapted use as a Napoleonic telegraph station, and possibly further intervention during the First and Second World Wars (Fig 7). The long barrow is situated on a hill summit above the River Tarrant at around 120m OD. It is orientated northwest to southeast and comprises a 55m long by around 25m wide mound with an 8-10m wide ditch on either side. A 40m long by 18m wide banked mound extending from the northwest end of the barrow is potentially a later addition. The long barrow is sited on the east side of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, now badly impacted by wartime activity. A smaller long barrow (MDO5044) is located 780m to the southeast, still within the confines of Blandford Camp.

A 1947 aerial photograph reveals a rectangular grid set into the top of the barrow mound as well as a narrow arc of ditch around the northwest end of the monument, corresponding with the possible later addition (Fig 7). Lidar imagery suggests an additional linear bank might also have been added to the south side of the mound, roughly corresponding to the location of the rectangular grid. This could possibly be associated with an adopted entrance, perhaps intended as a blast wall. It seems likely that these added features generally relate either to the adaptation of the monument for use associated with the Napoleonic telegraph station, or alternatively to later wartime re-use during the First or Second World wars.

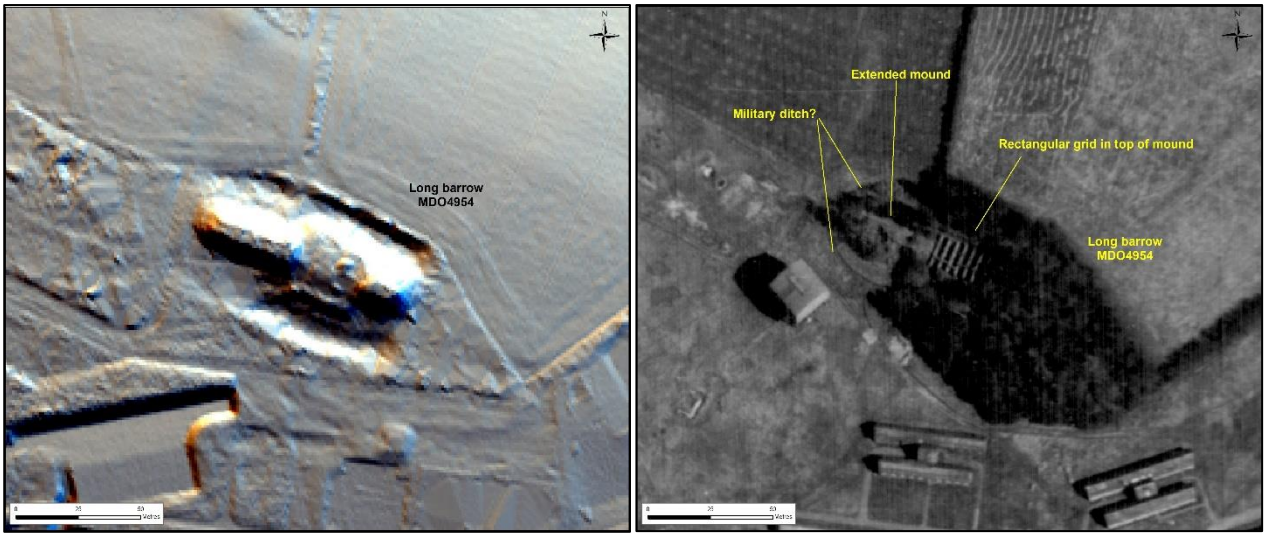

Figure 7: A Neolithic long barrow on the north edge of Blandford Camp, Blandford Down [RAF/CPE/UK/1975 RS 4008 11-APR-1947 Historic England RAF Photography; Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].
An aerial photograph dated 1947 suggests the barrow has had some degree of addition and alteration as part of the military activities associated with Blandford Camp.

Causewayed enclosures

Causewayed enclosures are the earliest known architectural form of ‘bounded’ space, creating a distinction between ‘inside’ and ‘outside’ space, embodying concepts of private and public, human and wild and possibly sacred and profane (Historic England 2018c, 2). Their creation is considered to represent a profound social and architectural development, with the act of enclosure itself being the most important function, more so than the activities that took place within.

Most causewayed enclosures are oval in plan, and some are sufficiently close to a circle to suggest that might have been the intended shape. Most comprise a single circuit of

discontinuous bank and ditch, although two or three concentric circuits are known. The average size is between 0.4 and 3ha in size but can extend as large as 10ha. In some cases, perimeters incorporate natural barriers such as rivers or scarps, whilst some span the necks of spurs or promontories. Individual segments are generally up to 20m long but can be longer, whilst the shortest segments might just be pits. Gaps in the bank and ditch sections need not always correspond and most of these enclosures appear to have had a single causewayed entrance. The perimeter bank might have had some sort of associated timber breastwork or light timber palisade. Ditch sections were relatedly cleaned and recut and sometimes held carefully placed deposits, such as feasting debris, stone axes and human skulls. Most causewayed enclosures on higher ground are centred just off summits, suggesting a precise orientation. Some, too, occupy striking landforms. On lower ground they are frequently observed to be sited on sloping ground close to rivers or streams (Historic England 2018c, 3).

Enclosure east of Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston

A slightly flattened sub-circular enclosure (MDO5042) to the east of Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston, is visible as soilmarks and cropmarks on aerial photographs (Fig 8). The enclosure comprises an arrangement of short sinuous ditches and pits which combine to form a single circuit measuring 183m long by 172m at its widest points, enclosing an area of around 2.5ha. It is sited on the south-western slope of a chalk spur overlooking the Tarrant Valley at around 70-80m OD and is orientated roughly southwest to northeast. The site is situated within a later prehistoric landscape of field systems and settlements and could potentially be associated with these, although its morphology and topographic setting strongly suggest a potential causewayed enclosure of early Neolithic date. This has not, however, been verified and would merit further investigation. The Roman road between Bath and Badbury Rings passes close by the western side of the enclosure, visible as earthworks on lidar imagery.

Henge monuments

During the later Neolithic circular henge monuments appear in the archaeological record, comprising various combinations of earthwork banks and ditches, timber posts and standing stones and forming part of a suite of monuments that includes stone circles and rows. They appear in the record after causewayed enclosures go out of use from around the 4th millennium BC (Whittle *et al* 2011, 204-5). Recent re-dating of the Durrington Walls henge monument (to *c*. 2570-2350 BC) suggests there may in fact have been a significant gap between the causewayed enclosure and henge monument forms (Parker Pearson *et al* 2007, 631).

The construction and use of these monuments continued through the Beaker period and into the Early Bronze Age, although many of the larger sites had gone out of use by this time (Bradley 2007, chapter 3; Historic England 2018d, 8). Although based on simple and related principles, henge monuments demonstrate great variations in size, arrangement and materials used, resulting in a diversity of monument forms. Whilst clearly part of a broad architectural tradition, henge monuments may share similar characteristics but no two are precisely the same (Historic England 2018d, 4). It appears to be their shared circular form that is most significant, representing a new type of arena for ritual practice and social gatherings (ibid).

Figure 8: Possible Neolithic causewayed enclosure east of Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston [NMR 24258/03 02-JUN-2006 © Historic England NMR].

Late Neolithic henge, Tarrant Monkton

A sub oval ring ditch (MDO44831) in Higgins Field, Tarrant Monkton, is visible as a soilmark on a 1968 aerial photograph (Fig 9). The feature was initially recorded in the

Dorset HER as a possible round barrow, of which there are several in the vicinity. Following excavations in 2005 the site was re-classified as a late Neolithic henge-type monument whose size straddles the definition between henges (having a diameter greater than 20m) and hengi-form types (typically with an internal diameter of less than 20m), based on Darvill (1987, 80).

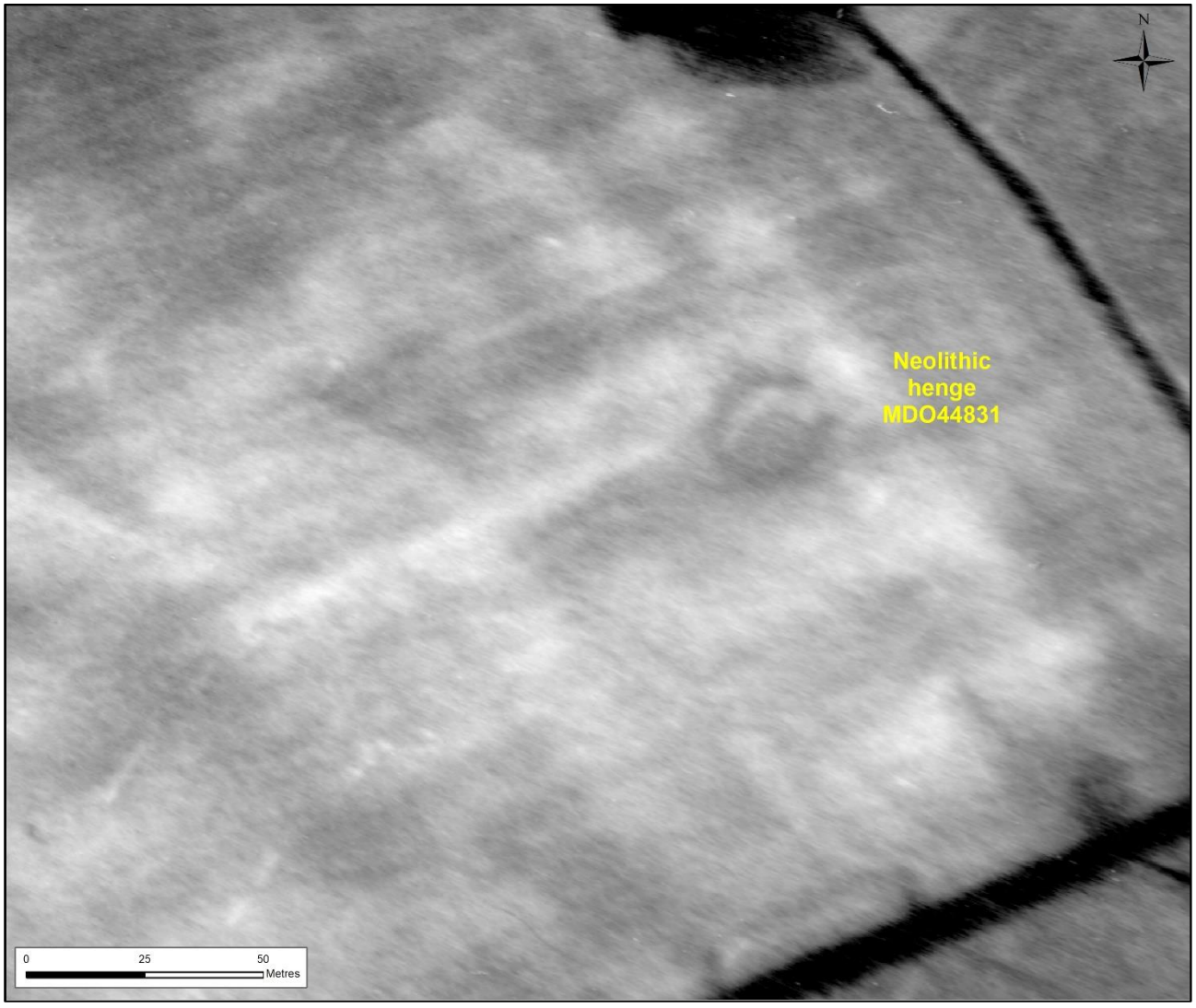

Figure 9: Neolithic henge, Higgins Field, Tarrant Monkton [NMR 68/044 28-MAR-1968 © Historic England NMR].

The interior dimensions of the ring ditch measure around 22m by 18m and a 5m wide and an entrance is visible on its northeast side (Fig 9). The feature is located about halfway up a northeast-facing slope at 70m OD, looking down across the Tarrant river valley. To the

west, and up-slope, of the site is a complex later prehistoric landscape of fields and trackways interspersed by Bronze Age barrows, also visible as earthworks and cropmarks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. The possible henge site is positioned on the eastern edge of this, above the valley. The northeast-facing entrance and its northeast orientation potentially indicate a deliberate association between the henge and the communities living within the river valley.

The excavations in 2005 exposed an area external to the ditch that would probably have been covered by a bank, since ploughed-out. As well as the entrance to the northeast, there might have been a second entrance on the southwest side, possibly closed subsequently by an added section of ditch. The ditch itself averaged 3.4m wide and was around 1.4m deep with near vertical sides. An organic-rich basal fill was found to contain Grooved Ware pottery, animal bone and struck flint. Secondary fills of Neolithic date and a final fill containing Bronze Age pottery were also identified. The eastern ditch terminus and several other ditch sections were found to contain deposits of dark ashy midden material containing a high concentration of artefacts and burnt flint, indicative of major feasting episodes. A quantity of pig and cow, along with fragments of roe deer, dominated the animal bone assemblage. A small number of sea mollusc shells were also recovered. Internal features were identified within the enclosure, consisting of various arrangements of postholes, including an unusual V-shaped arrangement of seven postholes focussed on the centre of the monument. A small, incised chalk ‘plaque’ was recovered from the fill of one of the ditch termini. The finely incised decoration is similar to that on some Grooved Ware pottery surfaces (Parry 2007, 127-28).

Pit circles

In addition to the large henge monuments there is a class of smaller circular monuments which are commonly formed of pit circles. There is usually no upstanding element to these less well-defined monuments, but aerial photography is beginning to reveal more examples. A number of this class of monument were recently discovered close to the Dorset Cursus on Bottlebrush and Wyke Down (Green 2000), outside of the project area. One of those sites at Wyke Down (Wyke Down 1) consisted of a ring of closely spaced pits 20m in diameter, each pit separated by a narrow causeway with a 3m entrance gap to the south. The pits were all ovoid in plan and were between 1.35m and 2m deep. A number of the pits were found to contain objects such as animal bone, antler, flint-work and carved chalk. Following a short period of silting up, small pits had been cut into the tops of the half-filled pits and ritual offering deposited, which included Grooved Ware pottery and fragments of human bone. Both terminal pits flanking the entrance contained transverse arrowheads and fragments of Grooved Ware from the same vessel, along with a fragment

of an internally decorated bowl and a small stone axe from the westernmost pit (Gale 2003; 61; Green 2000, 85-89).

A second site at Wyke Down (Wyke Down 2) was smaller, about 12m in diameter, and slightly irregular in form, having been constructed in two halves. A narrow, degraded, causeway was recorded at its northern end where the two halves met, with a 2m wide causeway at its southern end. Grooved Ware was also found in association with this monument; a near complete decorated Grooved Ware vessel was recovered from the southwest terminal pit, found to still contain carbonised food residues (Green 2000, 87).

Pit circle monument southeast of Manor Farm, Pimperne

A pit circle (MDO37382) is recorded to the southeast of Manor Farm, Pimperne, visible as cropmarks on a 2005 aerial photograph (Fig 10) and investigated through geophysical survey during the Wessex Water Corfe Mullen to Salisbury Transfer Scheme in 2012. The survey revealed an arc of five, possibly six pit-like anomalies with a wider gap in the south-southeast quadrant and a central pit (Marsh and Biggs 2012). The east side of the arrangement was obscured by a curvilinear ditch, part of a probable later prehistoric enclosure (MDO4566).

Excavation by AC Archaeology (Brace *et al* 2016) stripped the western half of the monument to reveal a circular arrangement of at least four, possibly five, large and regularly spaced pits with an internal segmented, or intermittent, gully and a central pit. The ring of pits ranged in size from 1.3m - 5.5m across and were circular or ovoid in shape. The external diameter of the feature was estimated at around 21m, the internal diameter at approximately 14m. Excavation of two of the pits, one of which was the central pit, indicated that they had held upright timber posts at some point. Poor dating evidence was recovered, consisting of only a few abraded sherds of Bronze Age pottery in the secondary fills of the pits, suggesting a form of ceremonial monument dating to the Middle Bronze Age or earlier (ibid, 24). Typically, this type of feature would be expected to date to the Late Neolithic period.

The pit circle arrangement MDO37382 was mapped by the project from aerial photographs (Fig 10). The site is positioned mid slope on a southeast facing hillside at around 70m OD. The evidence from aerial photographs and lidar imagery for the wider area reveals the monument sits within a complex later prehistoric landscape of settlement, field systems and trackways to the east of Pimperne and is potentially cut and partially overlain by features associated with these. A Bronze Age barrow cemetery is located within 500m downslope to the southeast.

Figure 10: Possible Neolithic pit circle, Pimperne [Google Earth 2005 imagery © Google Earth]. The curvilinear ditches cutting the east side of the pit circle are part of an Iron Age enclosure ditch (MDO4566).

Bronze Age barrows

The construction of circular monuments, in particular burial mounds, increased from the late 3rd to early 2nd millennium BC, with the main period of round barrow construction dating to between 2000-1500 BC (Historic England 2018b, 3). The earliest round barrows are typically small-scale and associated with Beaker pottery, which first enters the archaeological record from around 2500 cal BC. Single, usually crouched, burials beneath rounded barrow mounds are the norm for this period, occasionally accompanied by early metal items of gold, copper and bronze (Fitzpatrick 2013; Green 2000, 91).

The round barrow became the dominant funerary monument type during the Early Bronze Age. The most commonly found is the bowl barrow; generally, a pudding bowl shaped mound of earth and stone with an external ditch (Historic England 2018b, 3). Occasionally, a low outer bank to the ditch is known, but this form is not common in Dorset; this may be due to cultural variance but could alternatively reflect low survival due to plough levelling (Gale 2003, 77). Other forms of round barrow; bell, saucer, pond and disc barrows, have sometimes been referred to in the past as 'fancy barrows' or 'Wessex barrows' as it was believed that they were most commonly found to be associated with the 'Wessex Culture' in this area. More recently it has been shown that examples exist across the country, although there does appear to have been a distinctive tradition of 'Wessex Culture' burials associated with these barrow types (Historic England 2018b, 5).

Round barrows can occur anywhere in the landscape and large numbers of levelled examples are found in river valleys (Historic England 2018b, 7). Whilst isolated barrows are common, many occur in groups of twos or threes, and occasionally as part of a larger barrow cemetery of up to thirty or more barrows. These can be clustered together in tightly spaced groups, in linear rows or as more loose arrangements (for, example, Figs 11 and 12). Pairings of different types of barrows are not unknown on the chalklands of southern Britain. At Cowleaze, Winterbourne Steepleton, for example, an Early Bronze Age bowl barrow is located adjacent to a circular enclosure, possibly a saucer barrow or enclosure barrow. The uses of the mounded and open barrows at this site are thought to signify different ways of treating the dead (Jones *et al* 2013; 2014).

Figure 11: Bronze Age barrow group, Stag Gate Wood, Sturminster Marshall [NMR 24631/46 06-JUN-2007 © Historic England NMR].

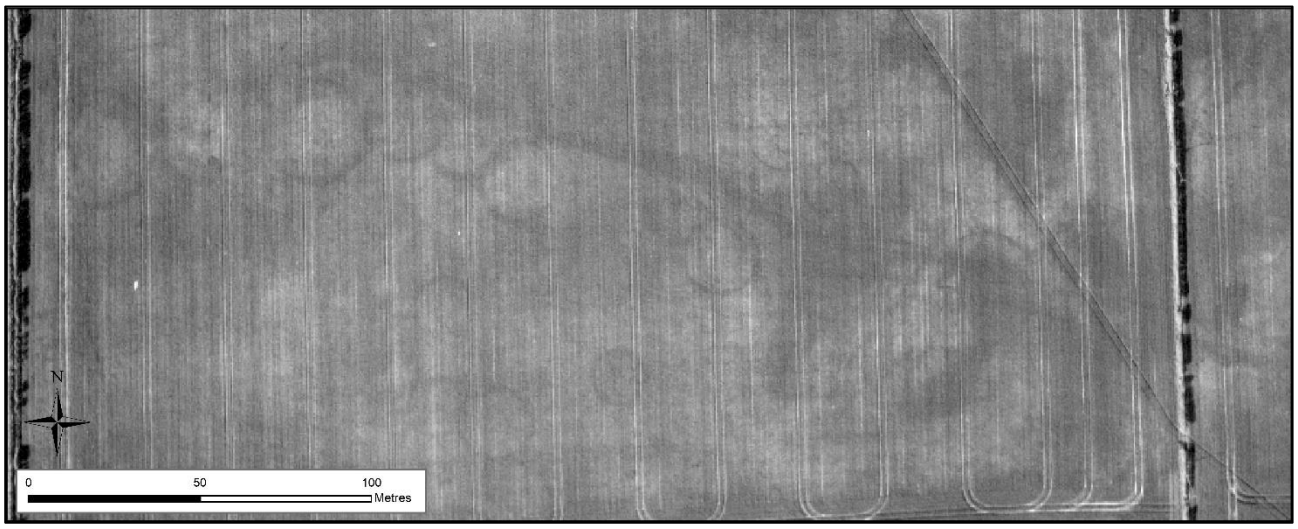

Figure 12: Linear barrow group, Winterborne Kingston [NMR 21626/12 15-APR-2002 © Historic England NMR].

The Dorset Middle Stour AI&M project recorded numerous examples of round barrows across the project area, of varying complexity and arrangement, and in the case of some sites, added substantially to the presently known number and configuration of barrows. Barrows were identifiable as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery but in many cases were visible solely as cropmarks of ring ditches, which could potentially represent other features, such as later prehistoric roundhouses, for example. In these cases, identification as a barrow was made on the basis of context: relationship to other known barrows or where there was already an existing record of the site as a barrow, or whether they were visible as an isolated feature, or group of features, with no obvious association with adjacent settlement features or field systems. Many of the ring ditches identified by the project were located in groups or clusters and extended an already recorded barrow group. Where cropmarks of ring ditches were visible but no certain identification could be made, these features were recorded as later prehistoric ring ditches or double-indexed if there was room for doubt.

Barrows and barrow groups were found predominantly on the higher crest of ridges and hilltops, although some sites in low-lying valley locations were also recorded. There also appeared to be a distinct association between some barrows and later prehistoric linear earthworks and field systems, these usually identified as earthworks on lidar imagery (Figs 11 and 12). Given the complexity of the later prehistoric landscape it is not straightforward in most cases to qualify or fully understand precise relationships, or how barrows might have influenced or determined land organisation during the later prehistoric period, but distinct associations are nonetheless identifiable.

Relationships between barrows and the layout of fields and earthworks has been observed during previous AI&M projects in Dorset (for example, Fleming and Royall 2020) but has also been more widely observed on chalk downland landscapes (for example, Fleming 1987, 191; Woodward 2002, 53-4). Within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site Landscape, examples of field systems in association with the Lake Barrow and Diamond Barrow groups were found to be contemporary with evidence of Middle Bronze Age activity at the barrows, in the form of deposition of Deverel-Rimbury urns (Bowden *et al* 2012, 30). McOmish *et al* (2002, 61) particularly noted some correlation to the east of the Avon between increased sub-division of fields relative to greater densities of barrows. It was suggested that field systems there might have been laid out with reference to pre-existing landscape markers, such as barrows, but the presence of significant hollows at the intersections of some field boundaries was also observed. The use for such features as territorial markers, or perhaps meeting places, was suggested, mooting that such features were perhaps communally recognised as significant, thus explaining their inclusion into later earthworks (*ibid*, 62).

Barrow cemetery, Bloxworth

A large barrow cemetery on Bloxworth Down is visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. The barrows consist of a tight grouping of at least 13 barrows with a looser grouping of at least a further seven barrows to the north of these (Fig 13).

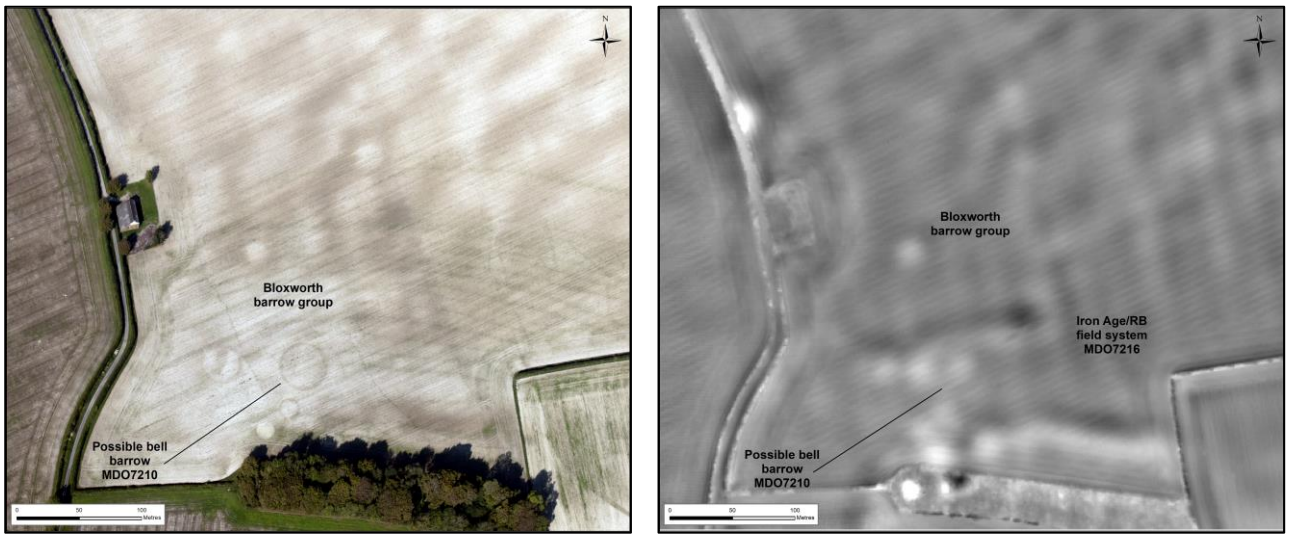

Figure 13: Bronze Age barrow group and later prehistoric field system on Bloxworth Down. [NMR 27312/001 03-OCT-2011 © Historic England NMR. Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

One of the barrows on the northern edge of the main group is a Bronze Age disc or bell barrow (MDO7210), comprising a central mound with an encircling berm, ditch and outer bank. The ditch is approximately 39m in diameter, visible as a cropmark on a 2011 aerial photograph (Fig 13). Antiquarian excavations of the mound in 1854 uncovered a central cremation burial with grave goods including bone tweezers and amber beads, along with four later burials in the upper parts of the mound.

The barrow group is sited at the northeastern end of a narrow ridgetop above the River Winterborne, at around 60m OD. It is located within an area of later prehistoric field systems, which include linear banks and ditches (MDO7216) immediately adjacent to the barrow group, part of a field system of probable Iron Age/Romano-British date. The OS 1st Edition map records the site of a ‘British Settlement’ at this location, which might refer to some of these earthworks (Fig 14). The later prehistoric field and enclosure boundaries appear to respect the barrow group, suggesting some form of relationship with it (Fig 14).

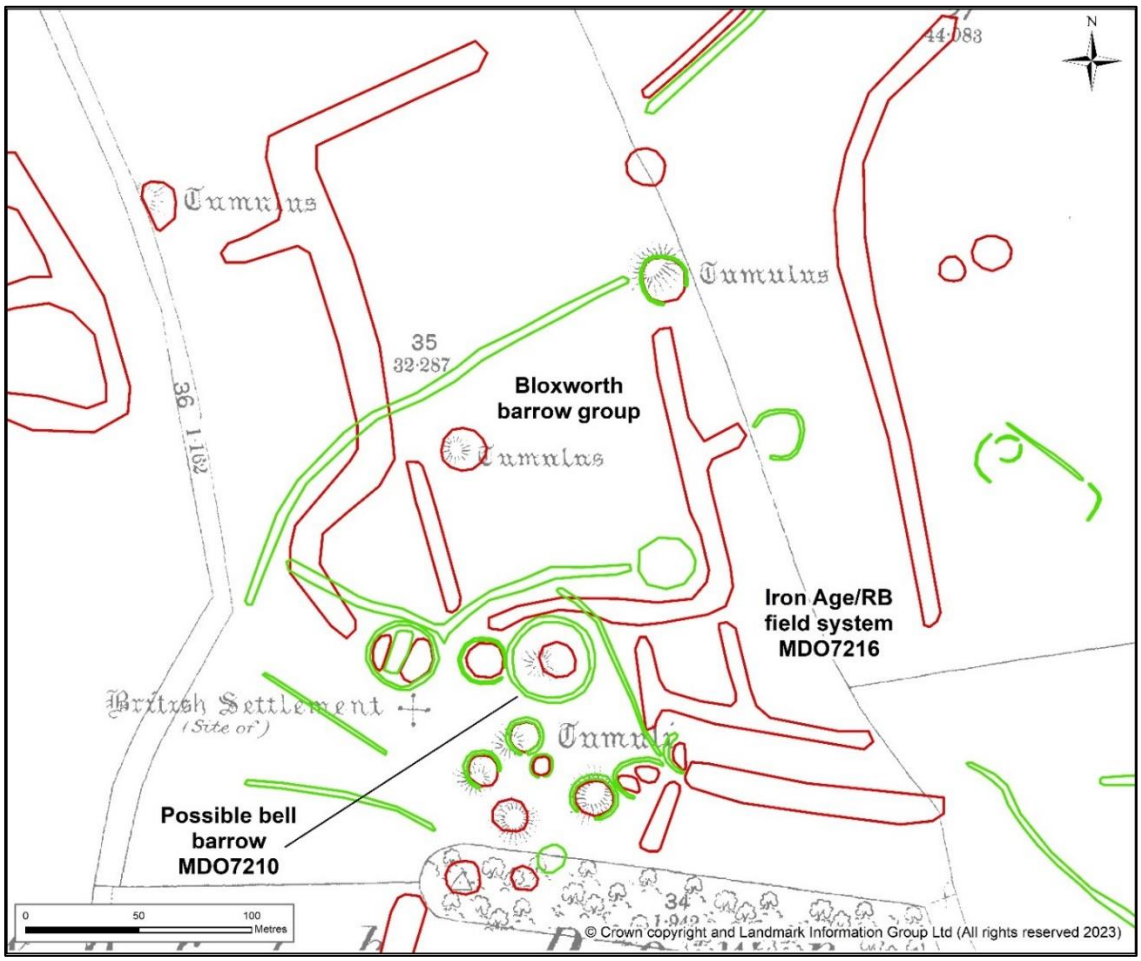

Figure 14: Barrow group and later prehistoric field system on Bloxworth Down © Historic England.

Barrow cemetery, Winterborne Kingston

A group of four possible conjoined barrows (MDO46375) are recorded to the east of Roke Farm, Bere Regis. The barrows are located on the tip of a northwest facing spur of ground, just below the ridgetop at 70m OD. To the southwest of the conjoined barrows, and closer to the ridgetop are a loose group of at least five further barrows. In between and around these are a concentration of pit-like features and linear ditches of uncertain date, although a later prehistoric origin seems probable (Fig 15).

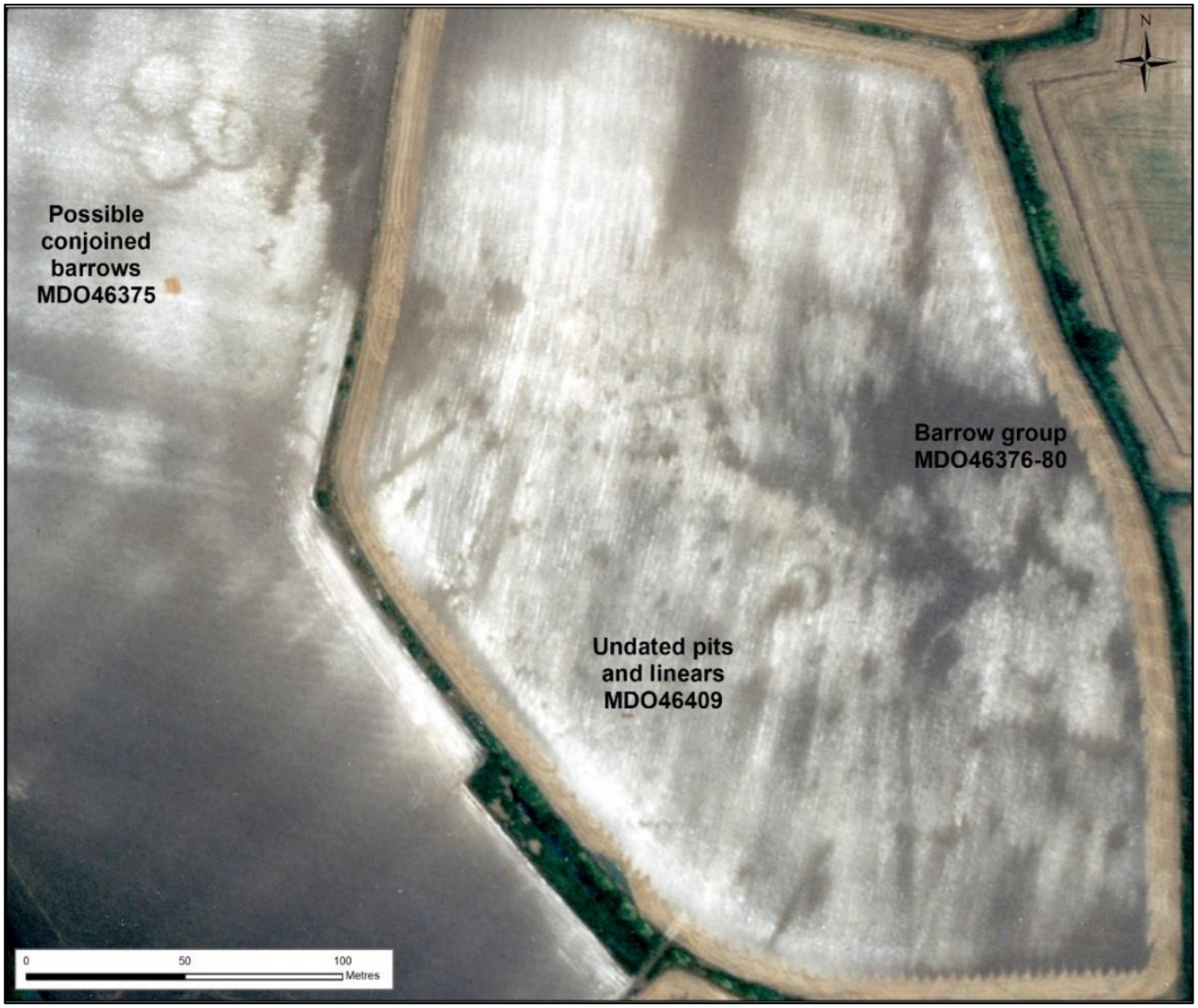

Figure 15: Conjoined barrows on the edge of a loose barrow group at Roke Farm, Bere Regis. [NMR 15401/14 05-SEP-1995 © Historic England NMR].

Farming and settlement

An organised landscape

A predominance of sites recorded for the project area relate to settlement, land organisation and agriculture during later prehistory. Visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, these sites illustrate the considerable time depth of habitation and farming along the river valley slopes and onto the higher ground of the chalk plateaux during the Bronze and Iron Ages and into the Roman period. The complexity of later prehistoric land organisation and settlement within the project area demonstrates the richness and variety of sites but also complicates our understanding of their chronology and relationships.

Formalised land division and enclosure within the later prehistoric landscape becomes more evident from around the Middle Bronze Age (around 1500 BC), with the creation of territorial boundaries and earthworks, particularly visible on the chalk downland in Dorset (Davey 2013; Gale 2003, 87; Green 2000, 102; Papworth 2011, 14). The theme of enclosure during the latter part of the Bronze Age and throughout the Iron Age has been explored by many researchers of these periods. The nuances of purpose and chronology of the various types of enclosure found throughout this time are still in discussion but at the very least they express conscious and developing ideologies of status, social organisation and territoriality. They also demonstrate aspects of social order, hierarchy and a sense of ownership.

In parts of Dorset, a distinctive form of rectilinear landscape division was first recognised by Christopher Taylor (2004, revised edition) and expanded on during research conducted as part of the South Cadbury Environs Project and Dorset Historic Towns Project (Davey 2013). Rectilinear division of the landscape during later prehistory and its influence on later landscape development has also been discussed for other parts of the country (for example, in Kent; Everitt 1986 and East Anglia; Williamson 1987; 1993; 1998). Whilst potentially reflective of contemporary ideologies surrounding social organisation and territory, the land holdings created through this particular form of landscape organisation also appear to have had a pragmatic application, established to maximise access to a range of resources available to individual holdings across a range of landscapes from valley floor to upland pasture.

In respect of the Middle Stour river valley, Davey (2013) proposed a series of roughly equal sized linear rectangular blocks of land running counter to the River Stour on a southwest to northeast axis, defined by long linear earthworks. Each ‘territory’ also appeared broadly associated with a line of Iron Age hillforts spaced evenly along the valley

at approximately mid-slope. From the initial laying out of these territories, an axial communications pattern developed, with subsequent linking trackways, earthworks and developing field layouts further cementing this pattern (*ibid*, 181).

The precise chronology of this development is not certain and can be complex; the field pattern in this part of Dorset potentially originates in places from around the Early to Middle Bronze Age and Davey (2013) proposes that the rectilinear pattern of land holdings in the Middle Stour region was well established by the Iron Age. McOmish *et al* (2002, 61) were able to demonstrate a more nuanced interpretation for similar patterns of land division on Salisbury Plain. They showed these to have Middle to Late Bronze Age origins, in places clearly cutting through earlier field patterns of likely Early to Middle Bronze Age date. Subsequent boundary alterations and additions had taken place during the Early Iron Age (*ibid*). Clearly the evolution of land organisation between the Middle to Late Bronze Age and into the Roman period was neither straightforward nor static. What is clear from the known evidence, however, is that later prehistoric patterns of land organisation and settlement in Dorset are both long-lived and complex, with multiple episodes of use and re-use.

Later prehistoric linear earthworks

The rectilinear pattern of land holdings within the project area is typically defined by or associated with long linear earthworks and shorter cross dykes, as well as multiple other boundary earthworks and trackways. Linear earthwork boundaries associated with later prehistoric enclosure and land division are typically hard to date, often lacking dateable material and having probably served multiple purposes alongside seeing episodes of re-working over centuries of use, as discussed above. Prehistoric linear earthworks can range in length from tens of metres to many kilometres. It is not uncommon to find them associated with pre-existing monuments, sometimes aligned or even impinging on these, suggestive of some associative relationship, in some instances perhaps symbolic as much as practical. As discussed above, alongside newly constructed boundaries, some of the earliest features were used to structure the social and economic landscape of the Iron Age and Roman periods. Some have furthermore seen continuous use or reuse into the medieval period, helping define subsequent patterns of land organisation and administrative boundary lines (Historic England 2018e, 7).

Some of the best-preserved examples of linear earthworks in southern England have been recorded on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire (McOmish *et al* 2002). Here, the long linear boundaries are thought to have functioned as ‘ranch boundaries’, laid out to create blocks of land containing multiple resource types, as discussed above. A similar system of linear boundaries on Dartmoor, the Dartmoor ‘reaves’ identified by Andrew Fleming (1978; 1988,

for example), were probably laid out in the same way, forming long axial boundaries on which later blocks of land division became impressed (Historic England 2018e, 5). The origins of the Dartmoor Reaves are Middle Bronze Age in date, based on associative relationships with other features. McOmish *et al* (2002, 61) demonstrated that at their earliest, the linear earthworks on Salisbury Plain post-dated the construction of Early to Middle Bronze coaxial field systems and where reliable dating could be shown, these returned a Late Bronze Age date with evidence for reworking during the Early Iron Age.

Combs Ditch

Several linear earthworks were recorded during the project. One previously known such monument is Combs Ditch (MDO5276), a sinuous linear ditch with banks on either side, that runs near continuously for over 4km on a broadly southeast to northwest axis along the watershed of the River Stour, potentially continuing northwest as a more fragmented earthwork for a further kilometre or so (Fig 16).

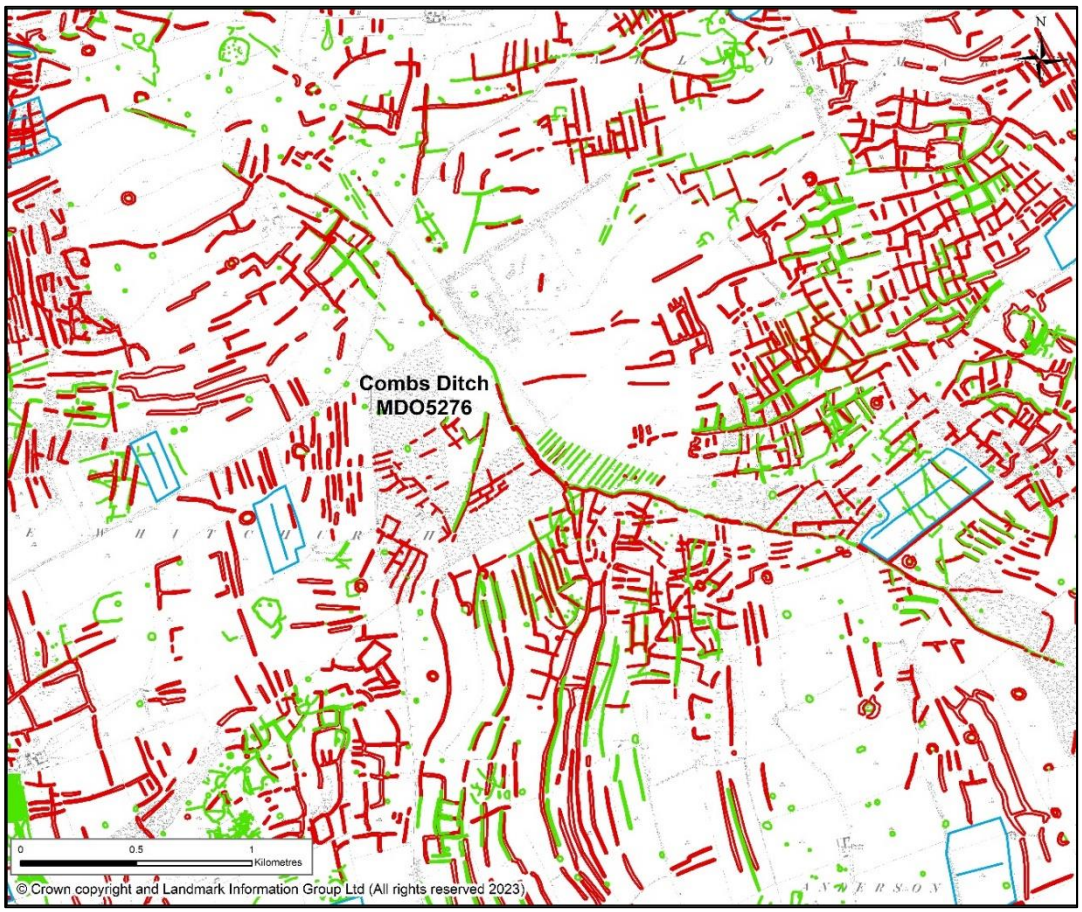

Figure 16: Combs Ditch and its relationship to later prehistoric field systems adjacent to the south and north © Historic England.

Excavations in 1965 indicated its original construction was probably Iron Age in date, possibly as an agricultural feature or boundary marker. The earthwork is clearly visible on lidar imagery, which also shows several areas of later prehistoric fields hanging off its south and north sides, laid out on a broadly southwest to northeast axis perpendicular to the earthwork (Figs 16 and 17). Field survey has suggested that the boundary ditch potentially cuts sections of earlier field banks, suggesting that parts of the field systems might be of earlier date, although the boundary was re-worked during the Roman and early medieval periods so precise chronological relationships between these features remains uncertain. The later re-workings created more pronounced earthworks, however, possibly suggesting a defensive or territorial purpose by this time; the boundary is believed to have been used for defence against the invading Saxons (Historic England 2020, 2). The boundary was subsequently adopted as part the medieval parish boundary between Winterborne Whitechurch, Winterborne Kingston and Anderson on the southwest and Charlton Marshall and Spetisbury on the northeast.

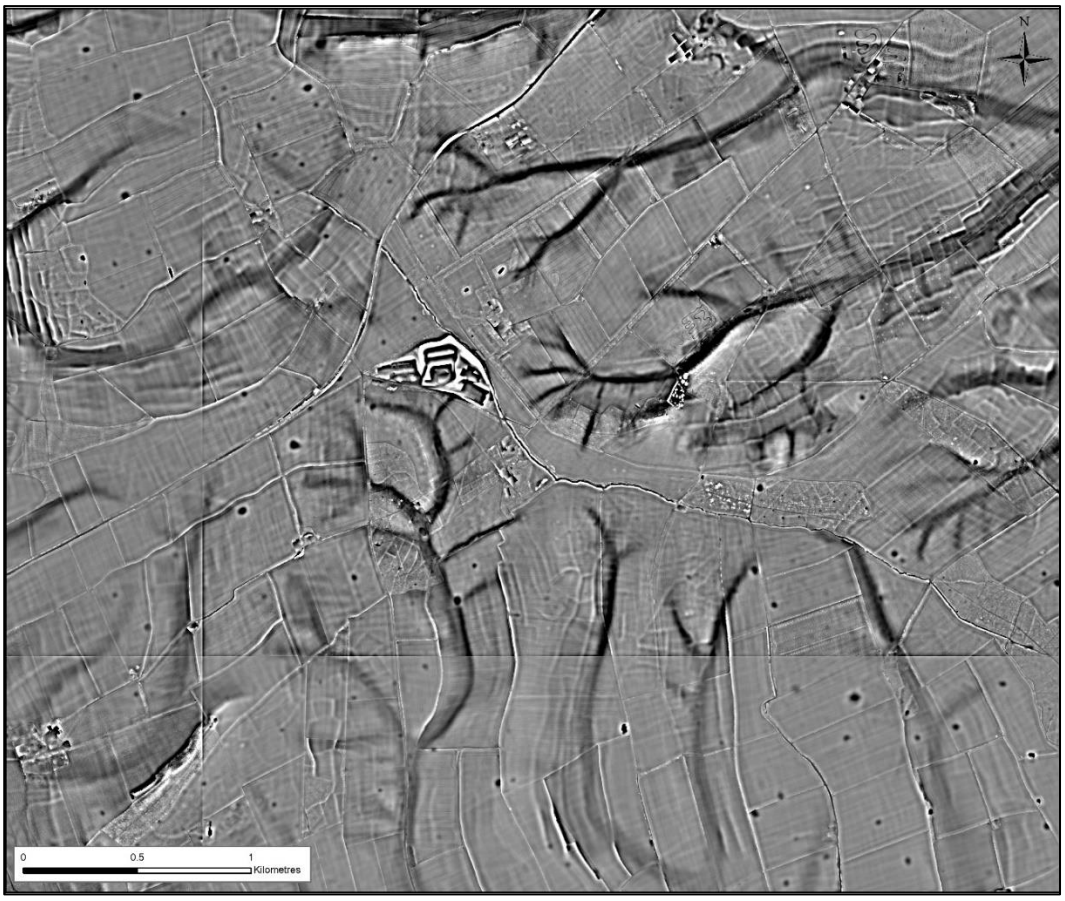

Figure 17: Combs Ditch and later prehistoric field systems visible on a lidar SLRM visualisation [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

Later prehistoric field systems

Large areas of field systems identified within the project area are considered likely to have their origins in the Early to Middle Bronze Age. An association of these field types with Bronze Age barrows is often noted, potentially suggesting they post-date the construction of these monuments but clearly respect them in some way, perhaps using them as a form of boundary marker as they are often located at junctions or mid-points. Equally, however, these field systems are known to have had a long time-span of use, potentially extending into the Roman period (Historic England 2018f). How far this might reflect continuous use in contrast to phases of abandonment, modification and re-use, however, is less easy to demonstrate. Studies of field systems in both lowland and upland areas, for example, have indicated that in some cases Middle Bronze Age field systems went out of use in the Late Bronze Age with new systems introduced during this time period in different positions from their predecessors. Certainly, it appears that the coaxial principles that underlie the construction of these early fields demonstrate little or no evidence of being continued or maintained far into the Early Iron Age, with many associated settlements also going out of use or shifting location during this time. In summary, coaxial principles of field and settlement organisation appear to have lapsed for several hundreds of years around the end of the Bronze Age and were not a feature of Iron Age agriculture. During the Late Iron Age and into the Roman period, however, field layouts along coaxial principles were favoured once again (Yates 2007a, 59; 2007b, 112).

Extensive field systems of later prehistoric date are identified within the project area. These are principally coaxial in nature, often stretching for several kilometres at a time, interspersed with settlements and enclosures and linked by trackways or divided by linear earthworks, as discussed above (see Figure 18, example A). Alongside the coaxial fields and sometimes appended to these are more accreted forms that comprise a range of field shapes and typically cover smaller areas than the coaxial fields (See Figure 18, example B). The layouts of these accreted fields characteristically follow a more curving course, perhaps with subtle changes in alignment and/or the addition of further plots. In other areas, the later prehistoric fields take the form of sinuous lynchets and long narrow terraces (see Figure 18, example C). In some examples, these may be the surviving elements of coaxial fields, but in others they appear to replace or overlie earlier fields and may be a later field type, perhaps particular to certain topographic locations, such as steeper slopes, for example. These varying field system types can all be broadly contemporary, but the linear terraces might be later rather than earlier features and the use of accreted field system types in particular can extend into the Iron Age and Roman periods (Historic England 2018f, 6).

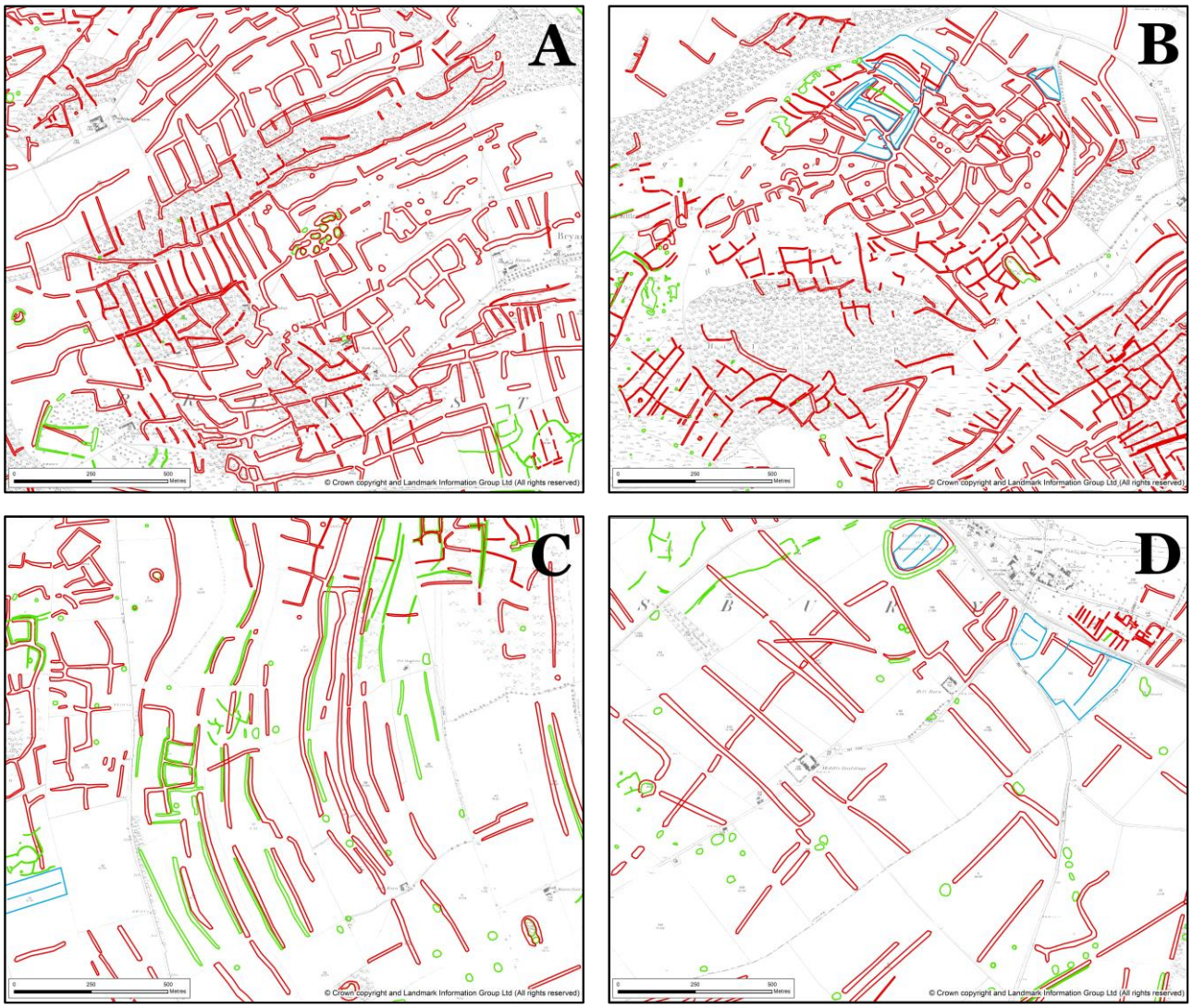

Figure 18: Selected examples of field system morphologies within the project area © Historic England.
A) Coaxial field system at The Bushes Linhay; B) Accreted/agglomerated/coaxial fields on Shillingstone Hill C); Linear field system on Muston Down; D) Rectilinear field boundaries of possible later prehistoric or alternatively medieval date at Spetisbury.

Survival, and therefore visibility, of later prehistoric field systems is a consideration when discussing patterns of activity. In open arable areas survival is likely to be lower due to repeated plough action, potentially resulting in boundary loss. In these areas, lidar imagery has helped identify the subtle earthworks that remain, where aerial photography might not, but general survival may be patchier and less consistent. In a number of instances, later prehistoric field boundaries have been identified within areas of current woodland. The absence of ploughing within woodland means that earthworks in these areas typically survive better than those in arable land. The features are not typically visible on aerial

photographs but are often clearly detectable on lidar imagery. Together, the combined evidence from aerial photographs and lidar imagery amplifies the scale and extent for later prehistoric field systems in the area, along with their potential for wider survival. In general, patterns of later prehistoric field systems in the Dorset Middle Stour River Catchment continue those mapped for the Lower Stour (Fleming and Royall 2020).

The evidence from aerial photographs and lidar imagery indicates that the greatest concentration of later prehistoric field systems within the project area are situated on the valley slopes and higher ground in the northwest. Here they primarily consist of coaxial field types that clothe the higher slopes, typically aligned along the slope perpendicular to the river valleys but otherwise generally non-observant of topography. A lower concentration of large-scale later prehistoric field systems has been identified in the southeast of the project area, where there is a more fragmented pattern and lesser cohesion. This might be due to a bias in survival in these areas rather than a real difference in contemporary activity or morphology, but it is hard to be certain from aerial sources alone.

In some areas of the project area, linear field boundaries forming larger rectilinear plots were identified towards the edges of some of the later prehistoric field systems; as at Spetisbury, for example (see Figure 18, example D). There, rectilinear fields within and broadly respecting the same alignment as the current (probably medieval-derived) field plots were recorded within an area bounded by Spetisbury Rings Iron Age hillfort (MDO4724), a section of the Roman road (MDO44174) between Badbury Rings and Poole, and an area of possible shrunken medieval settlement (MDO44271) to the east of Spetisbury Village. This pattern of morphologically similar groups of loosely coaxial fields having larger rectilinear fields around the edges has been observed elsewhere, as on the South Downs for example (Carpenter *et al* 2016). It is not clear whether these changes in style reflect true differences in style and/or chronology, or rather contrasts in topography and land use. As also observed for the South Downs, the peripheral fields within the Dorset Middle Stour project area are typically located in more open cultivated areas where ploughing might have impacted on survival.

Whilst areas like these may contain elements of later prehistoric origin, a medieval, or even post-medieval, date for some features is also possible, and distinguishing between these is not always achievable. In many instances, some correlation in alignment between the rectilinear fields on the peripheries of later prehistoric field systems and field patterns of probable medieval origin can be observed. How far the evidence might reflect continuity of field patterns in more open agricultural areas or the potential fossilisation and/or re-use of earlier boundaries into the medieval period and beyond is not certain, however. As a

general note, the correlation in alignment between the later prehistoric field systems within the project area and field patterns of probable medieval origin is very close in a majority of cases. This carries potential implications for discussions of settlement and landscape continuity from later prehistory onwards but could equally reflect a more pragmatic response to local topography and land use over time; potentially determined as well by aspects of later prehistoric rectilinear land division and its continuing influence in later land organisation, as discussed in the section above.

Later prehistoric settlements

The evidence for later prehistoric settlement within the project area takes a range of forms, from simple isolated enclosures that may or may not be associated with additional contemporary features to more complex enclosed settlements that demonstrate a long phasing of activity and are associated with a range of ancillary features such as field systems and trackways. Enclosed settlement began to develop during the Middle Bronze Age, within the tradition of land organisation and enclosure discussed above. This early settlement form remained much unchanged into the Early Iron Age, with dispersed farmsteads, some enclosed and others not, spread out across the landscape. Studies of later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlement indicate a densely settled landscape, particularly evident on the chalk downlands (Cunliffe 2010; Sharples 2010). Few Early Iron Age settlements survive as extant earthworks, but cropmarks identified through aerial investigation are enhancing the identification and understanding of these sites.

The most frequently observed types of enclosed Bronze Age settlement are typically of Middle Bronze Age date, comprising small, embanked enclosures with a single entrance gap in the enclosure bank, dominated by a single large house and ancillary structures within. Such enclosures may be grouped in small clusters of perhaps three or four units and characteristically overlie earlier coaxial or accreted fields of probable Early to Middle Bronze Age date (Historic England 2018g, 10). In Dorset, currently known examples include sites such as South Lodge, Rushmore Park, and Down Farm on Cranborne Chase, both associated with Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury Culture (Barrett *et al* 1991; Gale 2003). Both sites are associated with earlier forms of open settlement, and both appear to represent the latest episodes of activity in a long sequence of occupation (Historic England 2018g, 3). A further Middle Bronze Age settlement (MDO42932) on Shearplace Hill, Sydling St Nicholas, excavated by Philip Rahtz in 1957, was discussed in the Upper Frome and Sydling Valleys AIM Report (Fleming and Royall 2021). This site consisted of a small complex of earthworks around a central enclosure containing two hollow-set sub-circular houses. Excavation dated the main phase of occupation to the Middle Bronze Age through the presence of Deverel Rimbury pottery, although evidence

for earlier occupation at this site was also noted. The site on Shearplace Hill went out of use during the Late Bronze Age (Rahtz 1962, 289-307).

Middle Bronze Age enclosure at Crab Farm, Shapwick

A possible example of a Middle Bronze Age enclosed settlement (MDO6043) within the project area is recorded at Crab Farm, Shapwick, just over 500m southwest of Badbury Rings (Fig 19). The monument was partly excavated in 1988 at which point it had been substantially reduced by ploughing. When recorded then it comprised a slightly horseshoe shaped enclosure with an external bank approximately 20m wide and 0.5m high with a ditch on either side, of around 60m in external diameter and surrounding a central hollow approximately 30m in diameter and 0.4m deep. The southeast side of the enclosure was truncated by the road to Shapwick during the early 19th century (the Roman road between Dorchester and Badbury Rings runs on the same alignment 25m to the southeast), but earlier historic maps show the enclosure with a single entrance on its southeast side (Papworth 1992, 49). The excavations recorded evidence of earlier occupation in proximity to the enclosure, including a possible earlier enclosure on a slightly different alignment.

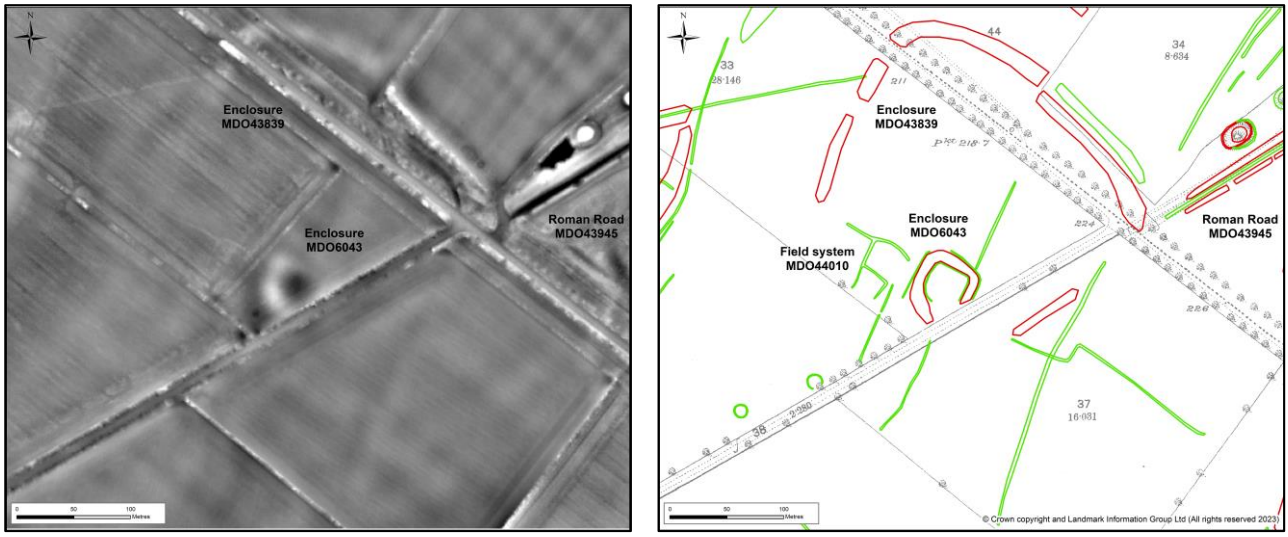

Figure 19: Middle Bronze Age enclosure, Crab Farm, Shapwick © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

Enclosure MDO6043 was initially, and erroneously, interpreted as a possible Late Neolithic hengiform monument but was later dated to the Middle Bronze Age through the association of Deverel-Rimbury Ware pottery and radiocarbon dating of a cow burial from the secondary fill of the inner enclosure ditch (Papworth 1988, 141; 1992, 54). The

enclosure was mapped during the project from aerial photographs and lidar imagery, which showed elements of the enclosure visible as cropmarks and earthworks, alongside cropmarks of additional linear ditches (MDO44010), probably field boundaries and/or enclosures forming part of a rectilinear field system on a broadly southwest to northeast alignment. Of likely later prehistoric date, the relationship of the field system to the enclosure is uncertain but it is potentially earlier than or contemporary with it. Later activity in proximity to the enclosure was indicated by only a few Iron Age and Romano-British pottery sherds, and the relationship of the field system to the Roman road suggests the latter potentially post-dates it (see Fig 19).

Sections of additional ditched and banked earthworks (MDO43839) are recorded to the north of enclosure MDO6043 and are also visible on lidar imagery (Fig 19). Excavation of features associated with this monument indicated that it too is of Middle Bronze Age date, constructed in several phases and shown to overlie earlier Neolithic and Beaker period occupation. The earthwork forms a partial curvilinear enclosure, which might partly encompass MDO6043 or enclose an area adjacent to its north side. Enclosure MDO43839 has been interpreted as having a potentially defensive function but might alternatively have functioned as some form of territorial or agricultural boundary.

The settled landscape from the Middle Bronze Age through the Iron Age remained one of enclosed farmsteads, settlements and field systems, heralding a long period of settlement continuity. Settlement remained rural and predominantly based around an agricultural economy and enclosed and open settlements typically existed alongside each other. A range of enclosures and enclosed settlements of probable later Bronze Age through Iron Age and possibly into early Romano-British date were recorded during the project, the majority visible as cropmarks and earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs 20 and 21).

One of the enclosures mapped by the project, MDO4564 on Pimperne Down (Fig 21, site E), was excavated in the early 1960s. The enclosure was of oval univallate form with a causewayed entrance on the south side and a smaller entrance on the east side. A partial human burial was discovered within the ditch at the southern entrance, a partial animal burial within the ditch at the eastern entrance; thought to have potentially represented the respective functions of each. An external antenna ditch on the southeast side was assumed to have served as an agricultural feature intended for controlling stock movement. Within the enclosure a circular timber house was recorded consisting of two concentric rings of post-holes. Two principal phases of occupation were identified, both within the Early Iron Age.

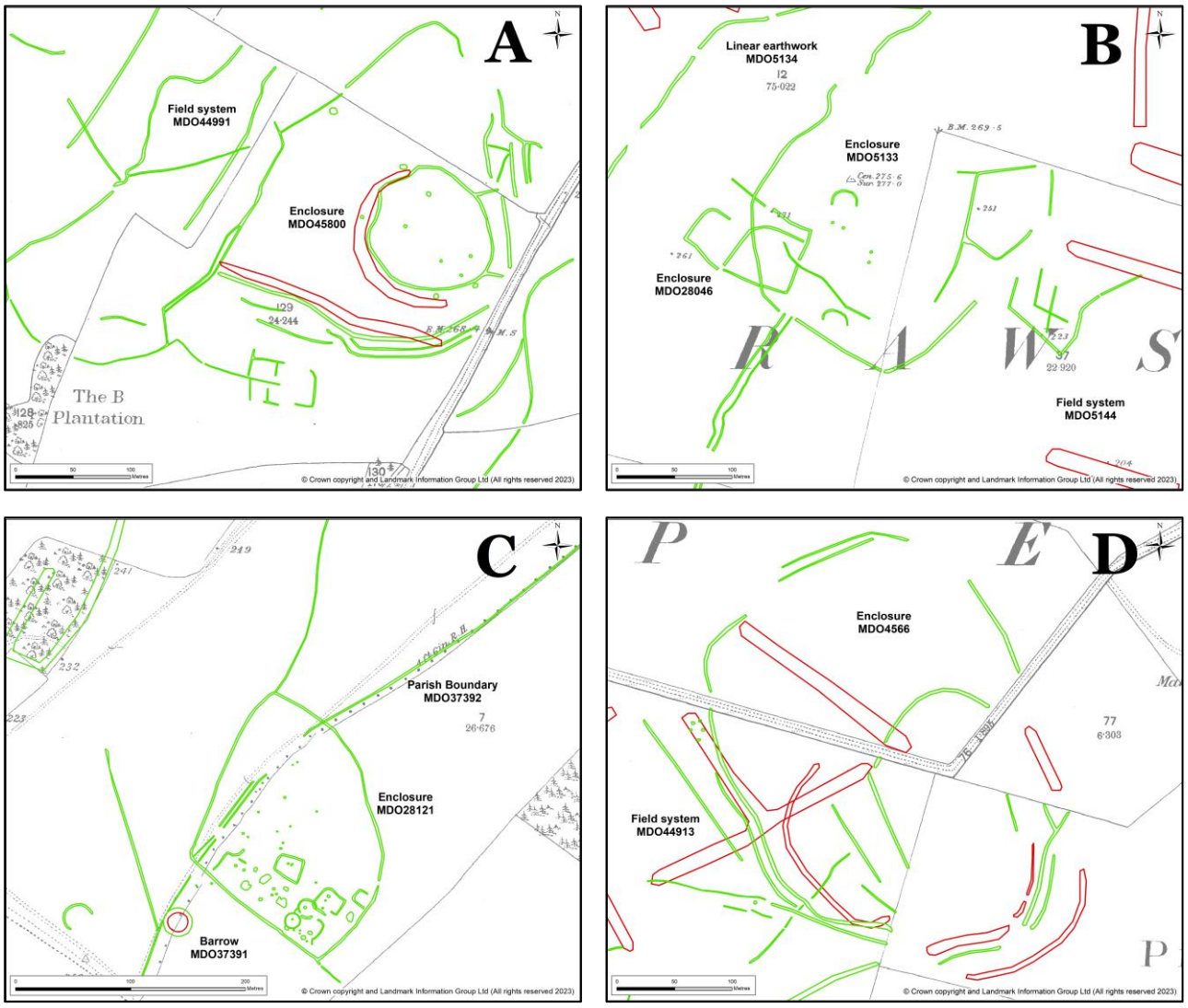

Figure 20: Selected examples of later prehistoric enclosures within the project area © Historic England.
A) Later prehistoric enclosure MDO45800 and possibly contemporary field system MDO44991 at Blandford St Mary; B) Possible Iron Age/Romano-British enclosed settlement MDO5133 and potentially earlier field system MDO5144 at Tarrant Rawston C); Later prehistoric enclosure MDO21821 with internal enclosures and pits cut by the parish boundary between Tarrant Rushton and Shapwick; D) Probable Iron Age enclosure MDO4566 and possibly earlier field system MDO44913 on Pimperne Down.

A ditched and banked rectilinear enclosure in High Wood, Pamphill, also recorded by the project (Fig 21, site F), was surveyed in 1991 and partially excavated in 2009 (Riley and Corney 1992, 70; Papworth 2009, 209-211). The enclosure was first classified as a D-shaped enclosure of probable Late Iron Age or Romano-British date (Riley and Corney 1992, 70). Excavation findings supported the Late Iron Age/Romano-British date for the enclosure and demonstrated that it had been constructed in an area of much earlier and long -lived later prehistoric occupation. The enclosure was significantly damaged by later

quarrying. The later fills of the quarry pits contained almost exclusively Roman period material, indicating that the quarries were of this date (Papworth 2009, 210).

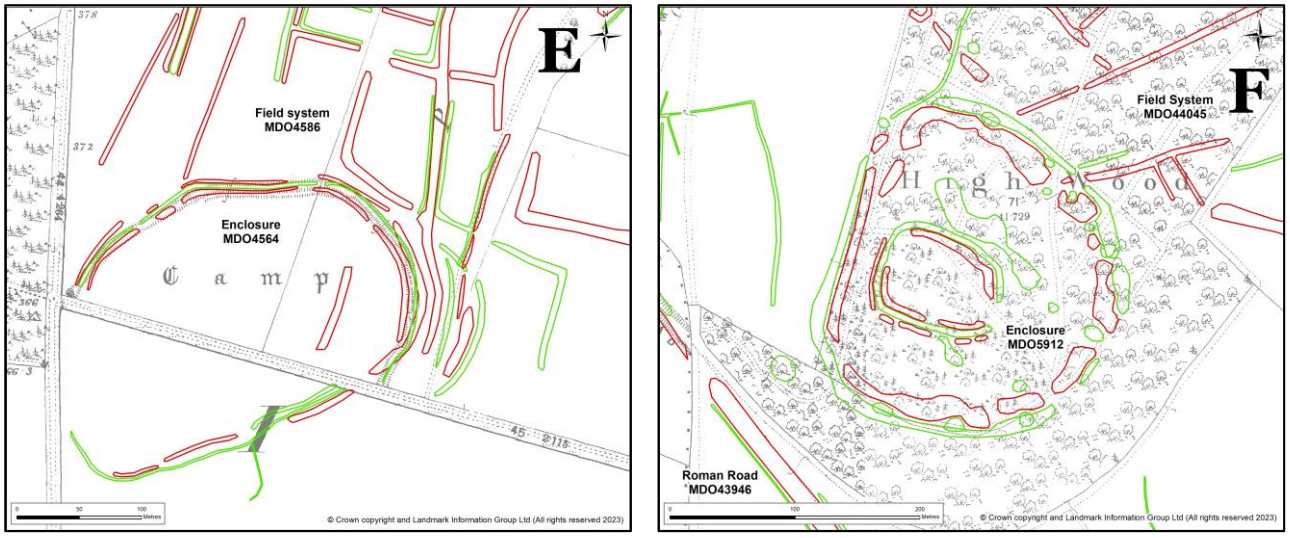

Figure 21: Iron Age enclosure and potentially contemporary field system on Pimperne Down (E) and Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure and potentially contemporary field system in High Wood, Pamphill (F) © Historic England.

Banjo enclosures

A particular form of Iron Age earthwork enclosure dating from around the Middle Iron Age but with apparently more intensive use during the Late Iron Age, is the banjo enclosure. These are relatively common in Wessex, but few are known in Dorset, and these are largely restricted to Cranborne Chase (Gale 2003, 105). Characteristically, banjos are relatively small enclosures with a predominantly sub-circular outline in the region of 0.2 to 0.5ha in area (Historic England 2018h, 4). Some banjos are enclosed by a bank with external ditch, but the majority are constructed with an external bank and the ditch on the inside (*ibid*). The entrance approach comprises an elongated trackway flanked on either side by a banked and ditched boundary which is contiguous with the earthwork bounding the main enclosure. The trackways range in length from about 25m to over 90m and often funnel out at their furthest extent; they are typically always longer than the diameter of the enclosure (*ibid*). Linear earthworks either side of the trackway frequently extend away from the banjo enclosure and loop round to form large, accreted enclosures or compounds, as in examples such as Cow Down, Gussage St Michael (Historic England 2018h, 4-5).

Other forms of Iron Age enclosure which have some characteristics similar to banjos are known, such as Little Woodbury, Salisbury, for example, which has given its name to a

type of Iron Age sub-circular enclosure, larger than the typical banjo and often having flanking antenna ditches but lacking the extended entrance approach. Examples of this type might include two enclosures at Gussage All Saints in Dorset: 'Gussage 1' (MDO5544) and 'Gussage 2' (MDO32395). A phase 2 of construction at Gussage 1, of Middle Iron Age date, saw the eastern entrance modified to create new antenna ditches, whilst the 'Gussage 2' enclosure might have had a more defined antenna ditched entrance, similar to banjo form, from the outset, with a possible looping back of one or more of the ditches to create an ancillary 'paddock' area (Papworth 2011, 134; Wainwright 1979, 21-4). Both the enclosures at Gussage All Saints are larger than typical banjo types, with antenna ditches but not necessarily the characteristic extended entrances and looped back ditches. Bowen (1979, 182) suggested there may have potentially been some form of 'hybridisation' between banjo enclosures and some other Iron Age enclosure types, such as those at Little Woodbury and Gussage All Saints, which would hint at a larger socio-cultural suite of settlement types reflecting various and overlapping aspects of ideology and social practice.

The function of banjo enclosures potentially varies but known examples often include elements of settlement alongside possible animal compounds and field enclosures, perhaps representing small farm complexes. An analysis of banjo enclosures recorded as part of the Lambourn Downs Mapping Project (Winton 2003), for example, observed that the banjos in that area were typically sited at around 150m to 180m OD with their funnel entrances pointing down-slope, usually into a valley *(ibid*). They appear to have been associated with an agrarian lifestyle, possibly positioned on marginal areas of ground to maximise the lighter soils and associated with small enclosures, perhaps for arable use, with open areas beyond that might have been more for pasture (ibid). It has been speculated that the characteristic elongated entrances of banjo enclosures might have been deliberately designed to impress, potentially suggesting high status sites and a sense of display. Even ritual use has been inferred for phases of activity at some sites, such as Nettlebank Copse in Hampshire, for example (Cunliffe and Poole 2000, 135-6; Winton 2003, 18).

Iron Age banjo-like enclosures, Spetisbury

No certain banjo enclosures were recorded within the project area but two enclosures with associated features recorded in the Spetisbury area were noted to have some morphological similarities to banjo enclosures, summarily consisting of enclosures with slightly elongated and funnelled entrances, although some variation was also apparent (Fig 22). Both sites are visible primarily as cropmarks and on the basis of morphology and context, a likely Iron Age date appears most probable.

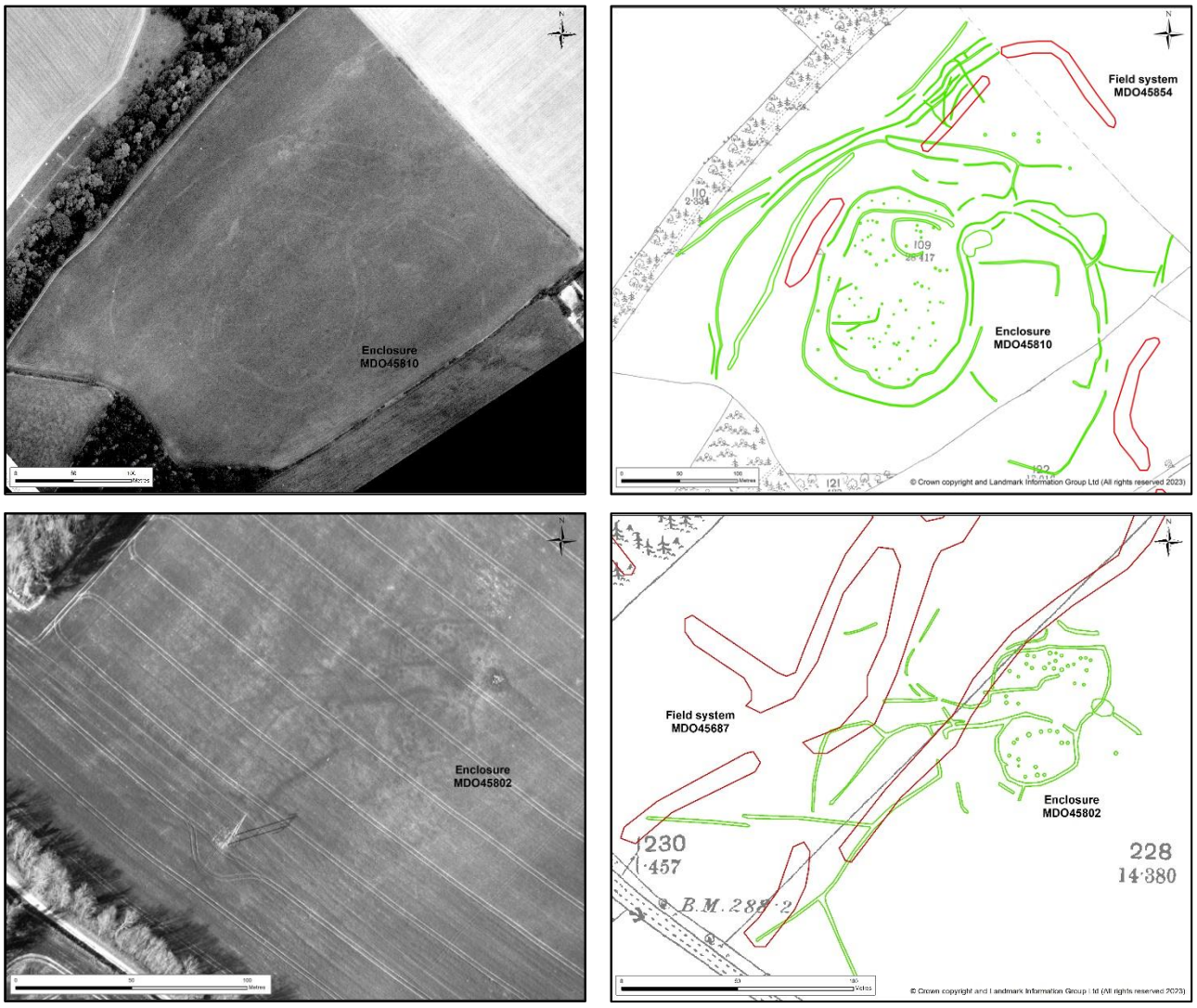

Figure 22: Probable Iron Age enclosures at Spetisbury © Historic England [NMR 15400/22 05-SEP-1995 and NMR 21626/18 15-APR-2002 © Historic England NMR].
The enclosures haves some similarities with both Iron Age banjo and Woodbury/Gussage All Saints enclosure types.

Enclosure MDO45810 is situated at around 80m OD and faces northeast along a spur of ground above the River Stour. It appears to comprise a relatively large oval multivallate enclosure 130m by 145m at its internal diameter and 160m by 180m at its external diameter. A slightly bulbous ditched approach to the entrance on the northeast side of the enclosure, and contiguous with it, extends for about 50m to 70m, flaring out at its northeast end. From there, multiple linear ditches continue around the east and west sides of the enclosure, creating partially enclosed ‘paddocks’ on either side. The approach is not as long or as clearly defined as in typical banjo enclosures and is evidently shorter than the diameter of the enclosure, which would be considered relatively large for the type, but

there is nonetheless some similarity in style. Within the enclosure are multiple ditched pit-like features and inner partitions. Additional linear ditches visible as cropmarks to the northwest might be associated trackways and/or field boundaries of broadly contemporary date. The enclosure is positioned on the east side of an extensive area of later prehistoric coaxial and accreted fields (for example, MDO45854) and potentially overlies, or is overlain by, field boundaries associated with these (Fig 22).

The second enclosure, MDO45802, is of slightly irregular oval univallate form, possibly created of two conjoined enclosures, or having internal partitions that define individual areas, and has a west facing entrance (Fig 22). This enclosure is situated just over 500m southwest of enclosure MDO45810 at around 90m OD. It appears to be positioned towards the head of a narrow valley that runs from southwest to northeast towards the River Stour. Overall dimensions are approximately 65m wide by 47m deep. A ditched approach to the enclosure on the west side extends west for up to 50m (as far as is visible on available sources), only very slight flared at its west end, and as with enclosure MDO45810, appears to be shorter than the diameter of the enclosure. From the end of the entrance approach additional ditched linear features, probably trackways and/or parts of an associated field system extend north and south. Within the enclosure, or enclosures, are multiple ditched pit-like features and inner partitions. The site potentially overlies, or is overlain by, part of an accreted later prehistoric field system (MDO45687).

Enclosures MDO45810 and MDO45802 both sit very clearly within the known suite of enclosed Iron Age settlements, with shared characteristics and associations that suggest settlements of varying complexity and function, typically existing within an agrarian landscape. There are some similarities between these two examples and the Iron Age enclosures at Gussage All Saints in Dorset: ‘Gussage 1’ (MDO5544) and ‘Gussage 2’ (MDO32395), but also have some characteristics, such as the extended entrance approaches and looped back antenna ditches, that share morphological characteristics with banjo enclosures. Whilst not definitively banjo enclosures, in the understood form, therefore, it could be mooted that enclosures MDO45810 and MDO45802 should be considered as part of this suite. There are clearly some shared aspects of morphology with already accepted banjo types that would appear to reflect a degree of commonly understood ideologies and the expression of these through shared methods of enclosure and display. Perhaps, alongside other similar enclosures, such as those at Gussage All Saints, for example, they reflect part of a developing suite of ideologies that centred around aspects of social order, ownership, status and territoriality particular to the Middle to Later Iron Age and the evolution of these during this time period.

Hillforts

The hillfort tradition has its origins in the later Bronze Age, but the main building phase began in the Early Iron Age (800-700 BC). Hillforts were preceded by, and in many cases developed from, palisaded enclosures and early hilltop enclosures. Early hillforts were simple univallate enclosures with single entrances, often extending to over 10ha in size and located in prominent positions in the landscape (Historic England 2018i, 6).

During the Middle Iron Age some smaller hillforts were abandoned whilst others were enlarged, often with more elaborate defences. These developed hillforts remained in use until about 100 BC when they were abandoned and replaced in some areas by a very different type of major settlement; the Oppida. These typically large, enclosed settlements were often established on new sites, with a tendency towards riverside locations (Papworth 2011, 14). An extensive Iron Age site at Winterborne Kingston, however, recently discovered during Bournemouth University's 'Durotriges Big Dig' and named 'Duropolis', suggests evidence for a large unenclosed settlement of some importance. The site was occupied from around 100 BC, also when hillfort enclosures in Dorset, such as Maiden Castle and Hod Hill, were being abandoned (BU archaeologists discover more about prehistoric life in Dorset's Iron Age 'Duropolis' | Bournemouth University).

Two hillforts are recorded within the project area: Spetisbury Rings (MDO4724) and Badbury Rings (MDO5994). Spetisbury Rings, also known as Crawford Castle, is a univallate hillfort around 2ha in size. Situated on the northern end of a spur above the Stour River above a fordable river crossing, the hillfort consists of a single rampart and ditch with an entrance on its northwest side. Limited excavation in 1958 suggested that the hillfort was being re-built in its later stages, and that this work was not completed. Construction of a railway cutting adjacent to the hillfort in 1857 exposed the fill of the ditch which contained a mass grave of around 80 skeletons alongside objects which included iron spear-heads and a sword, a bronze cauldron and bucket handles, as well as personal ornaments such as rings and brooches. A fragment of Roman shield binding was also found. This, and the fact that two of the bodies appeared to have met with a violent end and, prompted the suggestion that the grave occupants were victims of a Roman military advance. Subsequent analysis of the finds assemblage, however, suggests the bodies might represent multiple phases of burial over several generations. They might have been linked to phases of conflict, possibly defence of the river crossing, or might represent a local burial tradition (Papworth 2011, 154).

Badbury Rings (MDO5994) occupies a prominent position on the west summit of Badbury Hill. The Roman roads between Dorchester and Salisbury and Poole and Bath run to either side and intersect to the north. The hillfort is of multivallate form, consisting of three

circular ramparts and ditches (Fig 23). Survey of the site has shown that an earlier banked hilltop enclosure had originally encircled the hill summit within the hillfort, probably levelled when the later monument was constructed. Entrances on the east side of the inner two ramparts are probably original, along with the entrance of the inner rampart on the west side. The middle rampart was either added at a later point or modified on the west side to create an enclosed barbican; entrances on the west and south sides of this are probably much later in date. The outer rampart is a later addition, and the bank is of slightly lower construction than the other two, possibly indicating it was never properly completed.

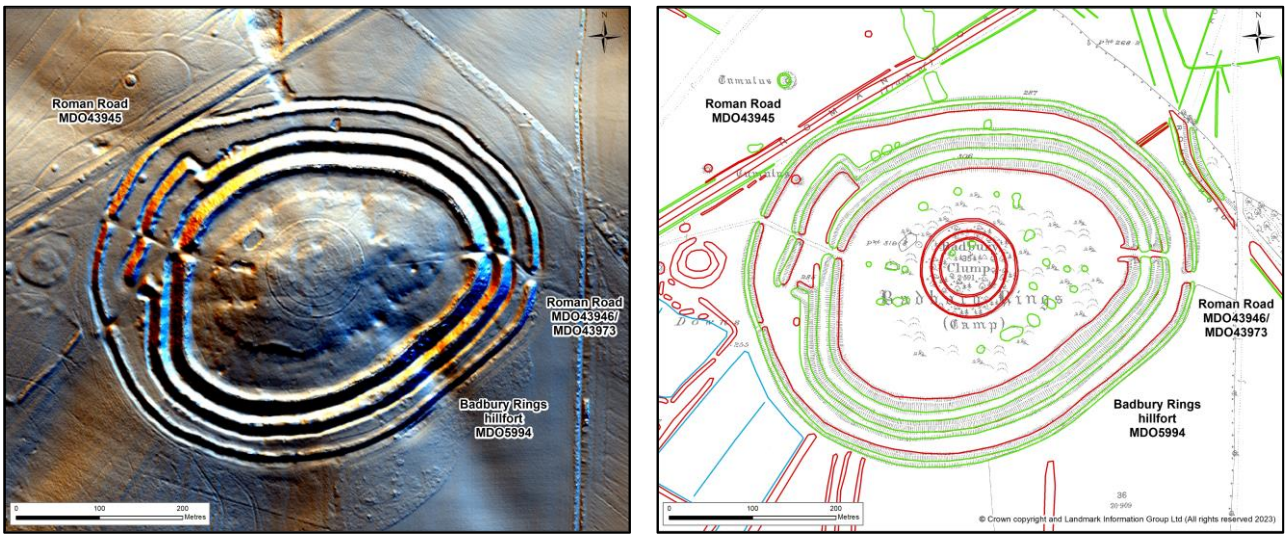

Figure 23: Iron Age hillfort at Badbury Rings, MDO5994 © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

Survey of the site also revealed hollows and terraces within the inner rampart that might be associated with round houses and other structures. Material evidence from the site places occupation firmly within the Late Iron Age and into the earliest years of the first century AD. Earlier prehistoric activity from the site was noted from a ditch and pit cut into the subsoil and containing Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flint debitage.

Post-medieval and modern use of the site consisted of the construction of tree ring enclosures within the hillfort in the 18th century and concrete structures during the 1940s (Papworth 2011,155-8). The hillfort was mapped during the project from lidar imagery, which also revealed the mounds of Bronze Age barrows within the ramparts, along with the earthworks for further later prehistoric enclosures and field systems, indicating the time depth of activity in the area. The juxtaposition of the hillfort with the later Roman roads also

demonstrates the significance of the place into the Roman period, or perhaps symbolises a display of Roman authority and dominance over the native Durotriges.

Buzbury Rings

Buzbury Rings (MDO5018) is a multivallate enclosure located towards the summit of an east facing slope of a prominent hill on Keyneston Down overlooking downland stretching away to the River Tarrant. Referred to in some accounts as a hillfort, it is recorded as a defended settlement in the Scheduling List Entry (1002718) and Gale (2003, 124-5) likens its form to the multiple enclosure forts typically found within Devon and Cornwall. These types of enclosure forts are characteristically located on the slopes of hills, frequently overlooking streams or river valleys and enclosed by earthen banks. Thought in that case to be associated with a pastoral community, the inner enclosure at Buzbury Rings probably functioned as an enclosed farmstead, containing houses and huts that most likely housed an extended family group. The outer enclosures were probably used for animal grazing (*ibid*).

Recent geophysical and lidar surveys of the site revealed that a D-shaped Neolithic causewayed enclosure formed the basis of the settlement which continued in use, evolving in form, up until the Iron Age (see List Entry 1002718). The inner enclosed area covers approximately 1ha and is encircled by a single banked rampart cut on its northeastern side by a later road. Within this central enclosure are several circular depressions from 6m to 9m in diameter, visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Figs 24 and 25). These have been interpreted as probable roundhouses. An outer kidney-shaped enclosure measures over 250m across and comprises a banked rampart and outer ditch. The outer enclosure encompasses an area of around 5ha and the inner enclosure is positioned towards its south side. Parts of a possible middle enclosure are visible as faint earthworks on lidar imagery the south and west sides between the inner and outer enclosures, indicative perhaps of phases of modification, extension and re-use (Figs 24 and 25). The entrance might have been positioned on the southeast side of the enclosure, possibly where the later road now runs through the monument. Finds from the site over the years indicate occupation spanning the whole of the Iron Age and into the Roman period (Papworth 2011, 154).

Buzbury Rings is situated within a complex later prehistoric landscape and earthworks and cropmarks visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery reveal the extensive remains of associated field systems, enclosures, linear earthworks and trackways (Fig 25). If a Middle to Late Neolithic causewayed enclosure represents the earliest activity on the site, it was clearly a place of some significance from earliest times. An area of coaxial field system (MDO4199) to the south of the site might have Bronze Age origins, further indicating that

the Iron Age settlement enclosure developed within an already long-lived and established landscape. An oval feature (MDO28036) visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery on the south side of Buzbury Rings is recorded in the Dorset HER as an enclosure of possible Bronze Age to Iron Age date, with an entrance on its northeast side. Lidar imagery, however, does not indicate any form of entrance to this feature (Fig 24), and an alternative interpretation might be that this is a Bronze Age bowl barrow, possibly with robbing or extraction in the top. The feature is located at the eastern end and on the south side of a curving linear earthwork (MDO5020) that extends round the south side of Buzbury Rings. The chronological relationship between these two features is unclear, although their juxtaposition suggests enclosure/barrow MDO28036 is potentially the earlier of the two (Fig 24).

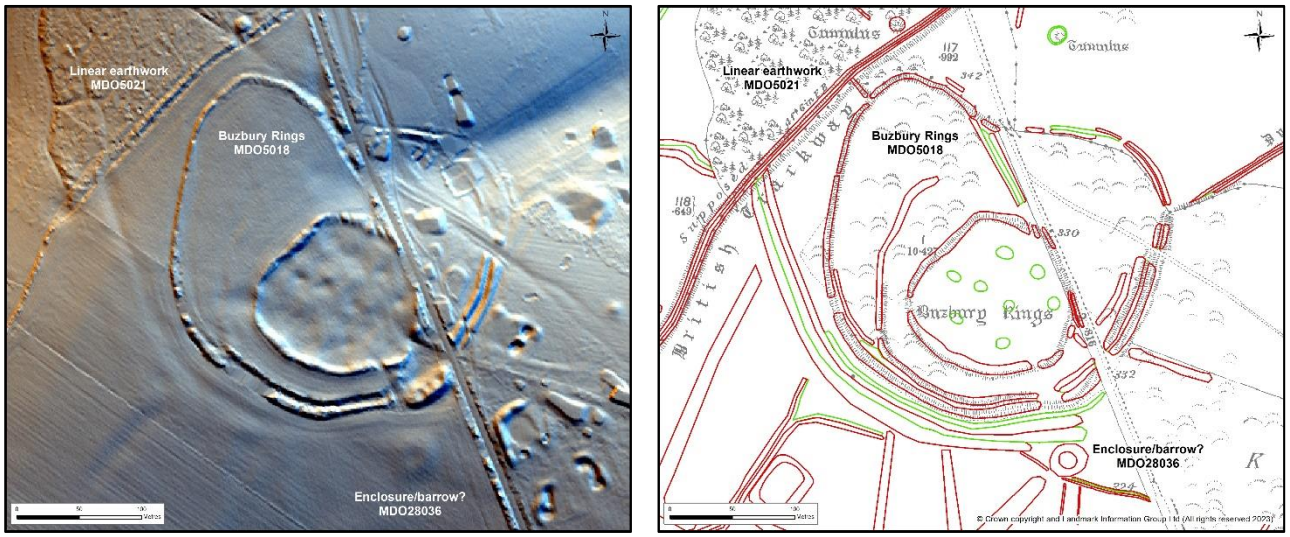

Figure 24 Iron Age defended settlement at Buzbury Rings © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

It is possible that some of the linear earthworks associated with Buzbury Rings also have their origins in the Bronze Age, possibly with later Iron Age additions. Four linear earthworks are recorded in proximity to Buzbury Rings, all aligned southwest to northeast and of substantial length (Figs 24 and 25). Formed of inner ditches with banks on either side, these earthworks might have had a territorial function, as discussed earlier in this section. They might also have functioned as trackways or defensive earthworks in some cases. One of the linear earthworks (MDO5023) clearly cuts through the coaxial field system MDO4199, and thereby postdates this (Fig 25). At its northern end it abuts the curvilinear earthwork (MDO5020) on the south side of Buzbury Rings that heads west to

east around the enclosed settlement, diverging around enclosure (or possible barrow) MDO28036. At its western end linear earthwork MDO5020 meets, or extends from, a southwest to northeast aligned linear earthwork (MDO5021) on the west side of Buzbury Rings. To the west of this, is another linear earthwork (MDO5022) on the same alignment and running parallel to it (Fig 25).

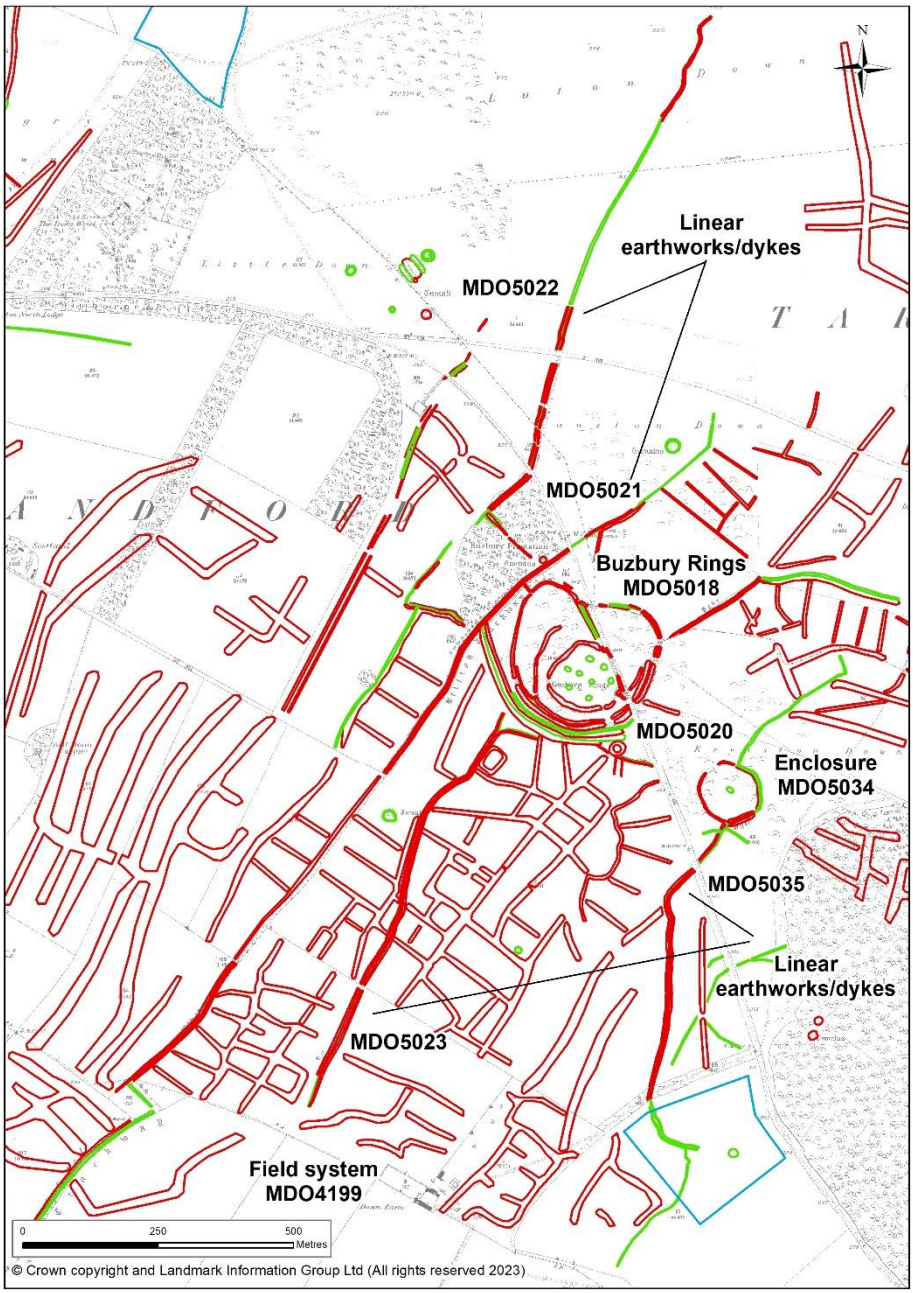

Figure 25: Buzbury Rings within its associated later prehistoric landscape © Historic England.

To the east of Buzbury Rings a further linear earthwork (MDO5035), also running from southwest to northeast, appears to continue round the west side of a small curvilinear enclosure (MDO5034) and might even use part of the enclosure bank in its formation (Fig 25). Cropmarks visible on aerial photographs suggest this earthwork might continue north eastwards beyond the enclosure as a linear ditch or trackway (MDO37379).

Whether the linear earthworks at Buzbury Rings are all contemporary to each other or represent a phasing of boundary definition and enclosure is uncertain but the southwest-northeast axis of the linear earthworks indicates some degree of shared purpose which would suggest some form of land organisation and boundary control, and clearly some phasing of activity was taking place, with some of the linear earthworks at least respecting or cutting through earlier features.

Medieval field systems

The enclosed mixed farming landscape of the chalk dipslopes, characterised by small fields and thick hedgerows, was formed through late and post-medieval enclosure of the extensive arable open fields that spread up the valley sides during the medieval period. Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation within these former open fields still survives in places today and is visible as earthworks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Throughout the medieval period there were changes in arable cultivation with periodic expansion onto the chalk downland as pressures for land prevailed. The surviving evidence for medieval cultivation can therefore help inform on patterns of land use and the social and physical changes that occurred during that period.

Medieval settlement

By the 11th century the historic settlement pattern of Dorset was relatively well-established. The villages, hamlets and farms that were in place by this time probably had their roots in a much older landscape but were shaped and organised as a result of more structured social processes from around the 7th to 8th centuries onwards (*cf*. Jones and Page 2006; Lewis *et al* 2001; Rippon 2008; Williamson 2003).

The medieval settlement character of the chalk downlands was predominantly one of scattered farmsteads. By contrast, the valley bottoms were populated by closely spaced linear villages and hamlets hugging the spring-lines at the foot of the combes and scarps. During the 14th and 15th centuries there was marked abandonment and contraction of settlement, even in the larger villages. This is most notable in chalk areas and there is evidence for a number of deserted and shrunken medieval settlements in this part of Dorset (Natural England 2013; Taylor 2004). The results from the project identified numerous areas of shrunken settlement and field systems along the river valleys as well

as several standalone deserted medieval settlements closer towards the ridgetops and chalk plateaux.

Medieval settlement in the Winterborne valley

Straddling the Winterborne Valley at Winterborne Clenston, between the present villages of Winterborne Stickland and Winterborne Whitechurch, are a string of settlement remains and earthworks associated with lost medieval settlements and the remnants of medieval land division and cultivation (Fig 26). Winterborne Quarleston, Winterborne Philipston, Winterborne Clenston, Winterborne Nicholston, Winterborne Whatcombe and Winterborne La Lee were all documented between the 11th and 13th centuries the majority, if not all, being mentioned in Domesday accounts. Taylor (2004, 58) demonstrated historic land division for each of these former settlements that resulted in long narrow linear estate parcels running across and perpendicular to the river valley. These linear estates probably had a much earlier origin than the documented record for each settlement (see discussion of linear earthworks above), but by the 12th century they were becoming amalgamated into larger ecclesiastical administrative units (*ibid*).

Tax accounts for the villages of Winterborne Philipston, Clenston and Nicholson show that by the mid-14th century household numbers were significantly reduced, with the three parishes becoming amalgamated in 1336. By 1428 the three villages were exempted from tax as household numbers dropped below ten (Taylor 2004, 116). Winterborne La Lee was recorded in the Domesday Book and was held by Milton Abbey. The original settlement subsequently took the name of Lower Whatcombe. Winterborne Whatcombe may also have been a Domesday settlement but was definitely documented by 1316 (Taylor 2004, 59). The date of desertion of these settlements is unknown, but both had substantially reduced in population by the mid-17th century.

The remains of settlement earthworks, strip fields, lynchets and areas of ridge and furrow are identifiable along the Winterborne Valley at Winterborne Clenston on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. The earthworks form a near continuous extent along this section of the river valley and the linear estate boundaries mooted by Taylor (2004, 58) are still identifiable, based on historic hedge lines and extant boundaries visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (see Fig 26). The Winterborne Valley clearly has a long history of occupation and use. Alongside the medieval settlement remains are the remains of boundary earthworks associated with later prehistoric field systems. Some of these boundaries could potentially have continued in use, or have been re-used, during the medieval period.

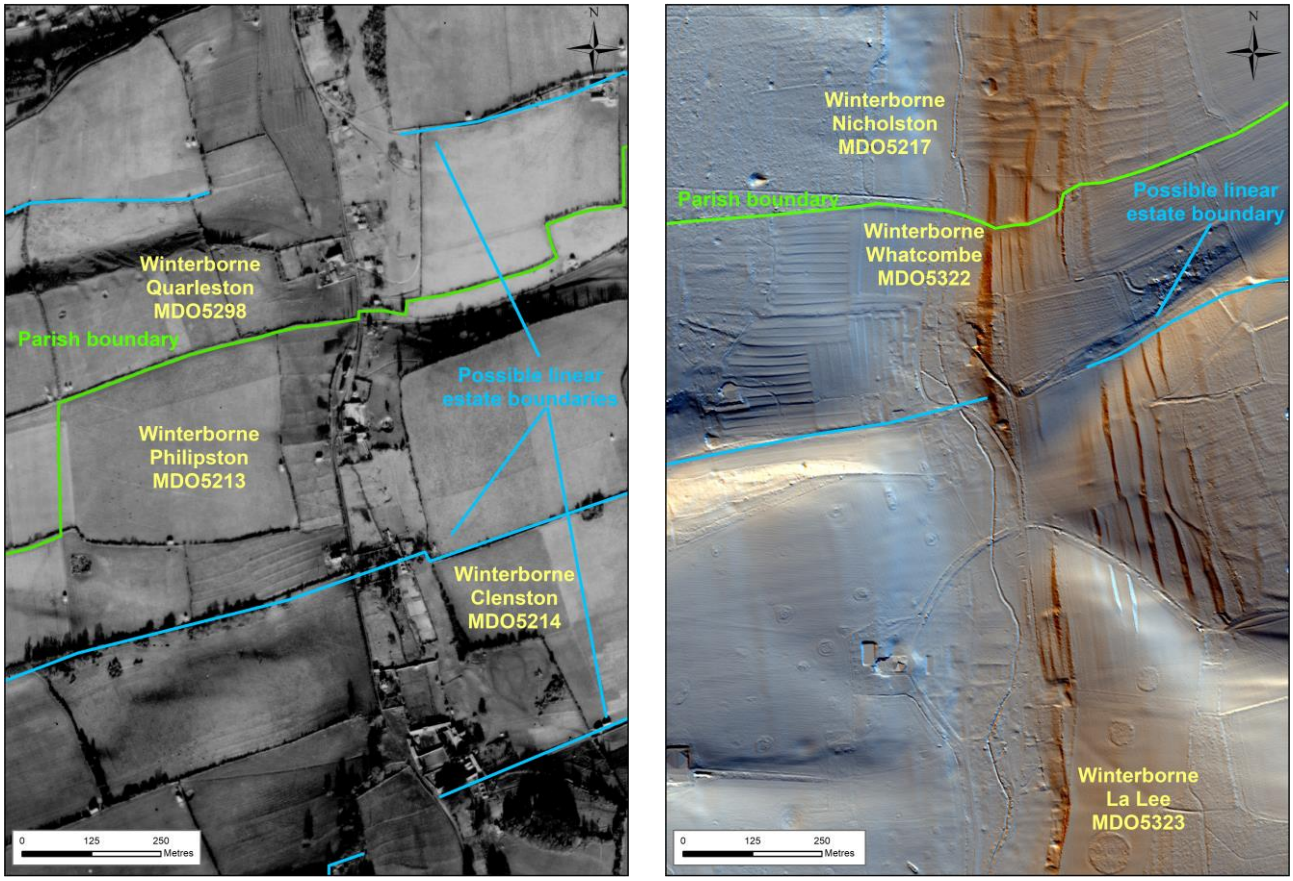

Figure 26: Medieval settlement remains and field systems along the Winterborne Valley [RAF/CPE/UK/1934 FP 1089 17-Jan-1947 Historic England RAF Photography. Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].
Medieval settlement along the Winterborne Valley between Winterborne Quarleston in the north, extending southwards to Winterborne La Lee. A linear pattern of early medieval or older estates is suggested by historic hedge lines (in blue outline) and current parish boundaries (in green outline), after Taylor 2004, fig 6.

Deserted medieval settlements, Lytchett Matravers

Alongside areas of shrunken settlement along the river valleys, several deserted medieval settlements inland of these were recorded by the project, such as those at Plowman's Farm (MDO7774) and Higher Loop Farm (MDO7776) at Lytchett Matravers. In both these examples, the earthwork remains of tofts, crofts and hollow ways are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery, along with areas of medieval cultivation, such as ridge and furrow and strip fields (Figs 27 and 28).

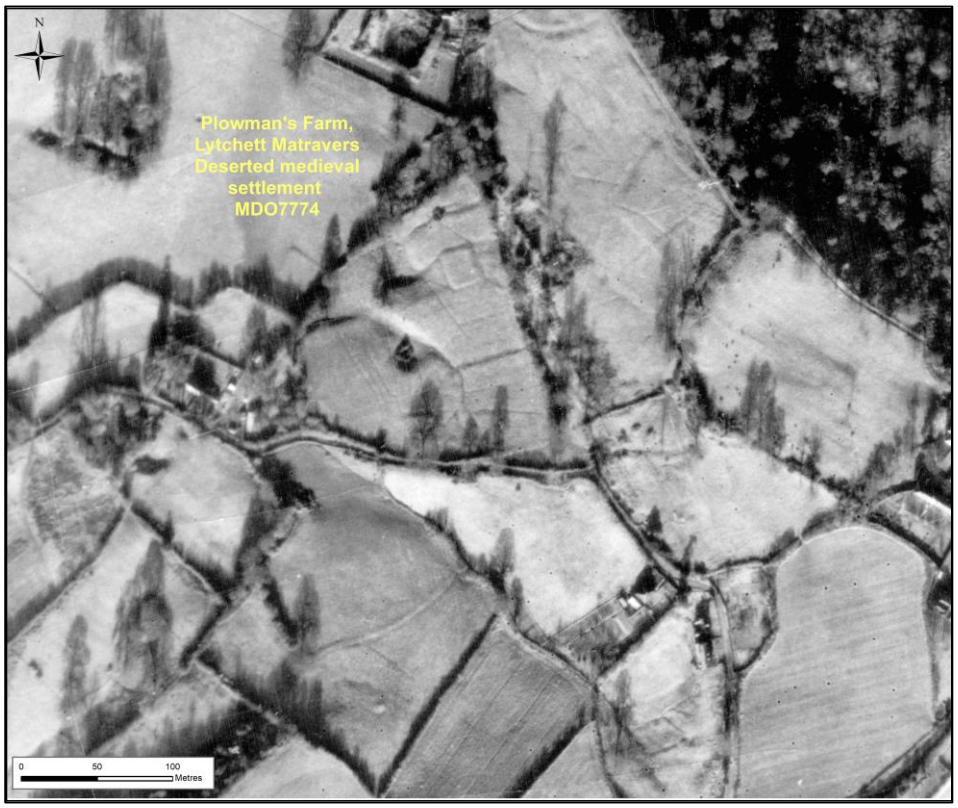

Figure 27: Deserted medieval settlement at Plowman's Farm, Lytchett Matravers. [RAF/CPE/UK/1934 RP 3202 17-Jan-1947 Historic England RAF Photography].

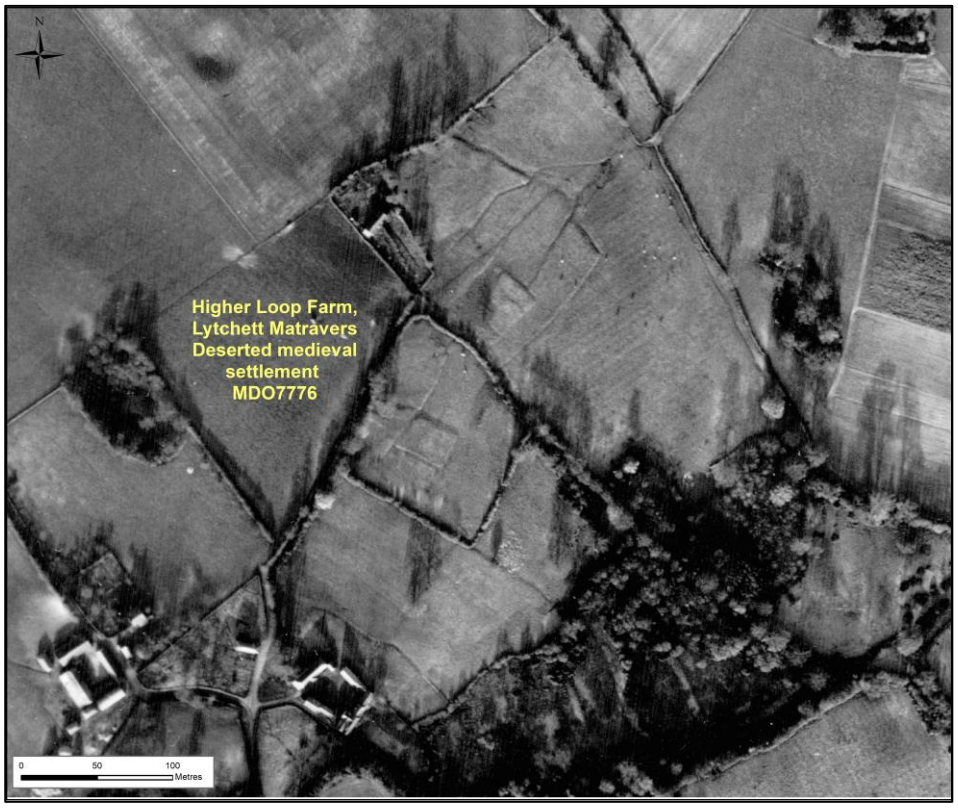

Figure 28: Deserted medieval settlement at Higher Loop Farm, Lytchett Matravers [RAF/CPE/UK/1893 RS 4244 12-Dec-1946 Historic England RAF Photography].

Medieval moat, Parsonage Farm, Stourpaine

Complex earthwork remains (MDO4798) to the south of Parsonage Farm, Stourpaine, are visible on aerial photographs and lidar imagery (Fig 29). These comprise a rectangular platform with a peripheral bank with a section of a partially filled in ditch along its south side. The rectangular platform is considered to be the site of an abandoned medieval manor house. An Ordnance Survey record of 1900 reported foundations for a building of potential 14th to 15th century date surviving just below the surface (see HER record).

To the south of the rectangular island and moat section is a sub-circular banked earthwork (MDO4801) with an internal diameter of approximately 33m. It appears to post-date the moated site and is recorded as a 'cockpit' on the OS 1st Edition map of *c*1880. A rectangular banked enclosure, also on the south side of the moat, along with additional banked and ditched linear features to the west, these all since truncated by the later railway line, might also be associated with the moated site or with an area of adjacent medieval settlement. To the southeast, the remains of a medieval strip field are visible as linear earthwork banks on aerial photographs and lidar imagery. Across the river to the southwest are areas of medieval ridge and furrow divided by low boundary banks (Fig 29).

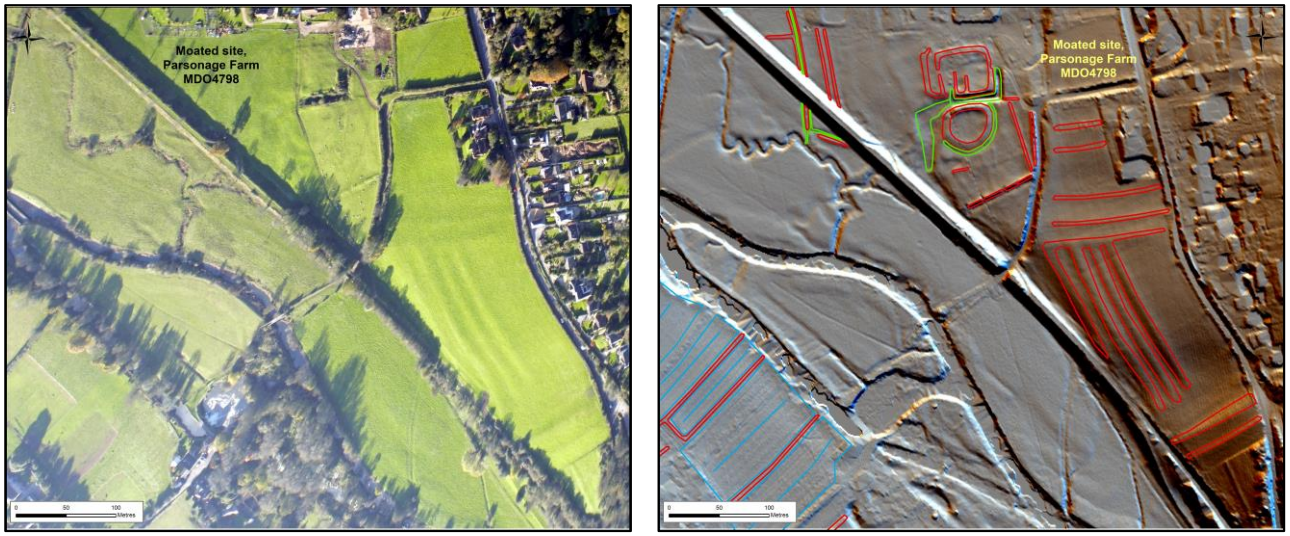

Figure 29: Medieval moated site at Parsonage Farm, Stourpaine © Historic England [NMR 24132/05 17-Nov-2005 © Historic England NMR. Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

Medieval deer parks

Deer parks and large manorial estates are features of the medieval landscape of the chalk downlands. Features associated with two known deer parks were recorded by the project: Tarrant Rushton (MDO5158) and Lytchett Matravers (MDO777). A third possible medieval deer park (MDO47143) was also recorded on the southern edge of Charborough Park. The park tradition was introduced by the Normans and about 35 deer parks across the country are recorded in the Domesday Book (Rackham 1986, 88). The number of parks had escalated by the 12th century; possibly due in part to the introduction of fallow deer, which were easier to confine than native species (*ibid*, 123). Owning a deer park was a status symbol typically associated with royalty and the aristocracy as well as lesser wealthy institutions such as monasteries and minor gentry (*ibid*).

The defining feature of a medieval deer park was the park pale, which usually consisted of substantial banks with inner ditches, often topped by timber paling or walling. Internal features might variously comprise inner compartments, managed coppices and wood banks, park lodges, rabbit warrens, fishponds and tracts of open grazing land. The identification of medieval deer parks in the present-day landscape relies on the survival of extant boundary features, such as long gently curving enclosure banks and ditches, the patterning of historic field lanes and parish boundaries that respect former deer park boundaries, and natural features such as streams. Place-name evidence can also indicate the existence of possible parks - ‘Park’, ’Hatch’, ‘Lodge’ and ‘Hay’ place-names, for example, are all associated with medieval deer parks (Muir 2000, 21), as are names associated with dogs or kennels, warrens (‘coney’) and hunting towers (‘trist’, ‘stand’), for example. Deer parks are commonly oval or roughly circular in shape and are typically found sited at the edge of manorial holdings, away from the prime arable land (Muir 2000, 19). Medieval deer parks declined in popularity from around the 16th to 17th centuries when some saw a new lease of life as ornamental parks (Rackham 1986, 127-8).

Tarrant Rushton Deer Park

A deer park at Tarrant Rushton (MDO5158) was mentioned in the 1296 Calendar of Inquisitions Post-mortem on Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford (Cantor and Wilson 1968, 242). Cantor and Wilson (*ibid*) considered the likely extent of the deer park to have corresponded with the wooded area now comprising Hogstock Coppice, Stubbs Coppice and Sing Close Coppice (Fig 30). Although their ground survey of the deer park pale indicated little or no evidence for earthworks on the southeast and eastern sides of the park, earthwork banks and ditches visible on lidar imagery describe a near continuous enclosure corresponding with Hogstock Coppice and Sing Close Coppice.

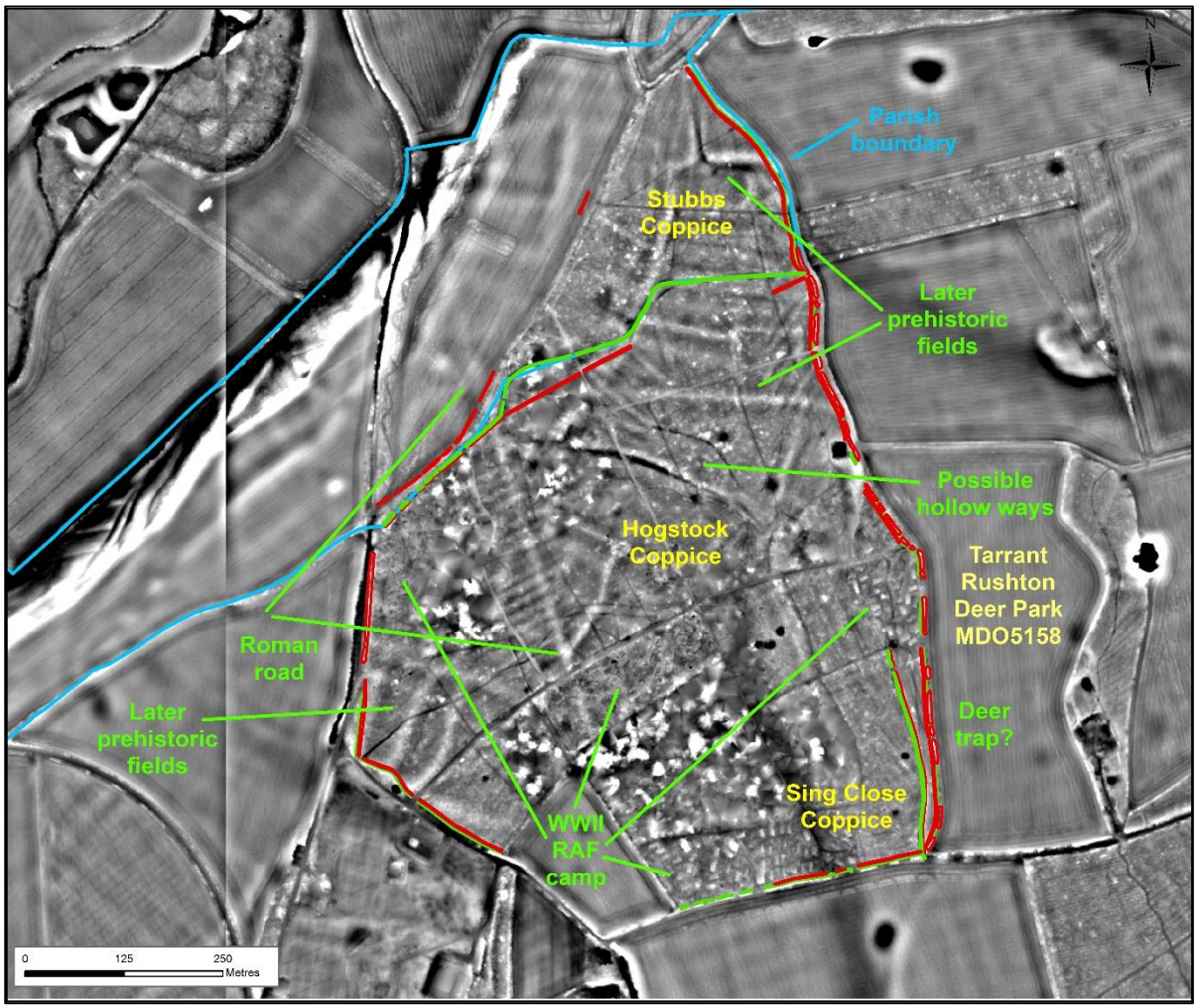

Figure 30: Medieval deer park at Tarrant Rushton, with earlier and later features visible on lidar imagery © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

The parish boundary between Tarrant Rushton and Tarrant Rawston runs along the north side of Hogstock Coppice and this is also visible on lidar imagery as a sinuous ditched earthwork with broken sections of bank along its south side. Additional sections of bank on the south side might be part of the deer park pale but could alternatively be later features. Cantor and Wilson (1968, 244) record that the earthworks forming the parish boundary are of different character and not as substantial as those of the park pale, also that the parish boundary to the east of the park has seen prior alterations evidenced through historic mapping. It is possible, therefore, that the section of the parish boundary running through the park was a later feature.

The section of possible deer park comprising Stubbs Coppice lies beyond the parish boundary to the north. Banked and ditched earthworks of similar character to the medieval

park pale are visible on lidar imagery. These extend the east side of the deer park northwards along the parish boundary line corresponding with the east side of Stubbs Coppice (Fig 30). Broken sections of banked earthworks on the west side of Stubbs Coppice are visible on 1945 Google Earth imagery and these may also be part of the medieval deer park pale, although Cantor and Wilson were unable to find any traces of it in this section during their survey (1968, 242). The overall indications are that Stubbs Coppice probably did form part of the original deer park, encompassing an area of approximately 51ha, with the present parish boundary line being altered from its medieval course. Alternatively, Stubbs Coppice may represent a later addition to the deer park, although this seems less likely.

Additional features within the area of the medieval deer park may be contemporary and associated with it; these include a possible V-shaped deer trap in the southeast corner, and possible hollow ways running through the deer park from southeast to northwest. There are also earlier features within the deer park extent, including the earthwork remains of a later prehistoric field system (MDO45422) and a section of the Roman road between Bath and Badbury Rings (MDO45226). During the Second World War part of the deer park was used for accommodation serving Tarrant Rushton Airfield (MDO42716).

High Wood, Charborough Park

The area encompassed by High Wood, on the south side of Charborough Park, Lytchett Matravers, is shown as a small park on an 18th century estate map (Charborough Park Grade II* List Entry 1000713). The park pre-dates the 18th century re-modelling of Charborough Park, which included a 17th century deer park (MDO6175) to the north of the present house.

Charborough is a Domesday manor, and medieval settlement remains (MDO7825) are identifiable as earthworks on lidar imagery to the southeast of the present Charborough House, south of the parish church. Two possible medieval hollow ways are also visible on lidar imagery extending into the north side of High Wood from the area of former medieval settlement (Fig 31). Within High Wood, and in places corresponding with its extent as shown on the OS 1st Edition map, is a near continuous linear bank with internal ditch, also visible as earthworks on lidar imagery, encompassing an area of approximately 62ha (Fig 31). Post-medieval trackways and extractive pits are also visible within High Wood and these features clearly post-date the banked and ditched enclosure (MDO47143), which is considered likely to be of medieval origin. The parish boundary between Morden and Lytchett Matravers forms part of its northern boundary. It is not clear whether the banked enclosure is made up of wood banks, or whether it is associated with a previously unrecorded medieval deer park contemporary with the royal manor of Charborough.

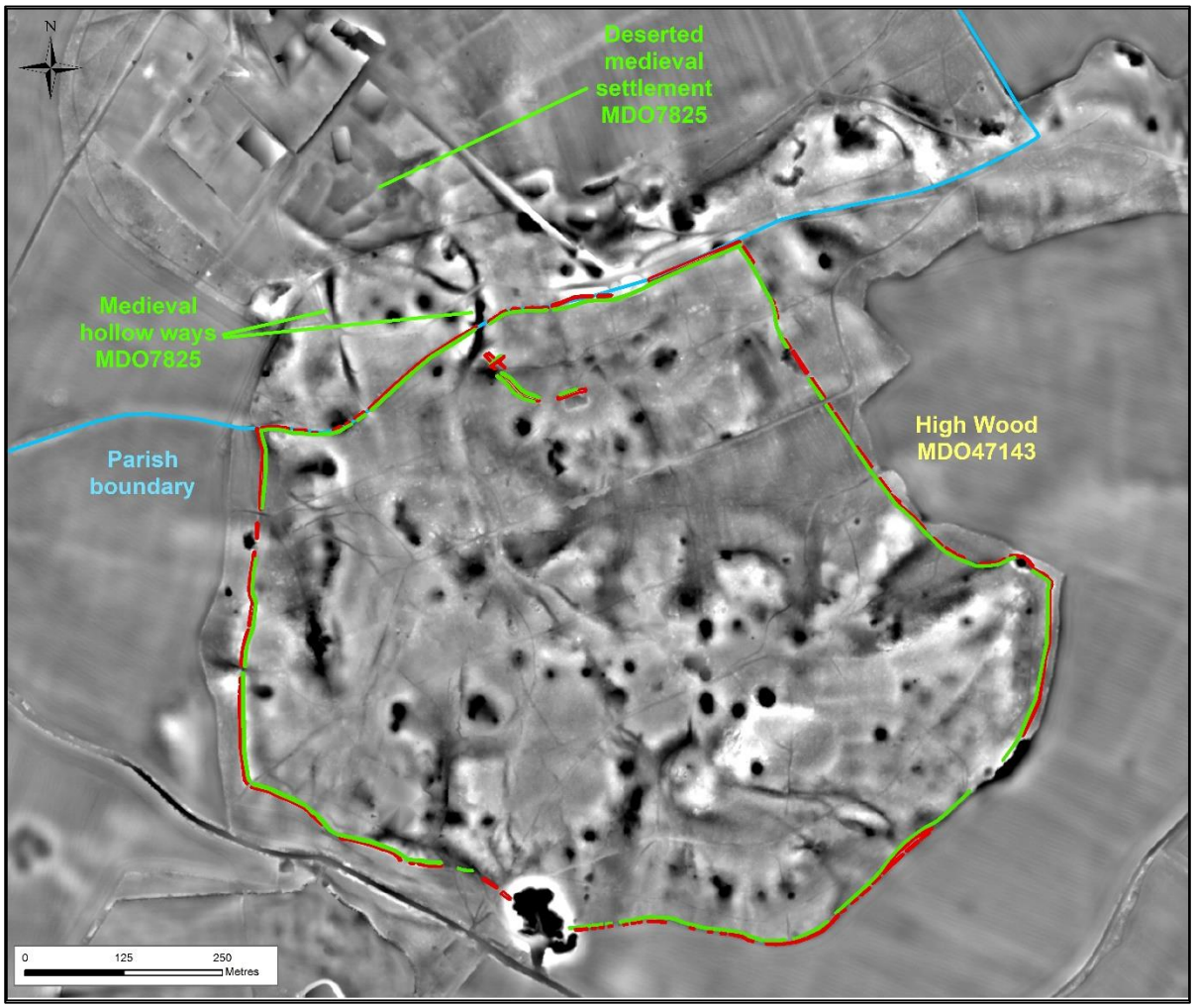

Figure 31: High Wood, Tarrant Rushton, a possible medieval deer park on the edge of Charborough Park © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

High Wood is located immediately adjacent to the north side of the former medieval Lytchett Matravers deer park (MDO777), a much larger enclosure of almost 130ha that probably closely corresponds with the historic extent of Old Park (Cantor and Wilson 1963, 149-150). The park pale of Lytchett Matravers deer park is also visible on lidar imagery, comprising broken sections of bank with an inner ditch for most of its entirety and, as with High Wood and Tarrant Rushton deer parks, incorporates the parish boundary between Morden and Lytchett Matravers for part of its extent, in this case along its east side.

The Roman landscape

Three Roman roads within the project area converge to the northeast of Badbury Rings, connecting the centres of Dorchester and Poole with Bath and Salisbury. Sections of all three Roman roads are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs and as earthworks on

lidar imagery, with other sections fossilised by the modern road layout. The Roman roads were constructed across an already densely settled later prehistoric landscape, with Badbury Rings the most prominent feature within this (Fig 32). Lidar imagery in particular illustrates the density of later prehistoric features in the vicinity of Badbury Rings, with the Roman roads cutting across these with almost little regard for those earlier sites; Badbury Rings (MDO5994) and the enclosed settlement of High Wood, Pamphill (MDO5912) excepted. These two sites appear in contrast to have been deliberately respected by the roads, although this might simply be due to practical considerations, the earthworks being too substantial to put a road through. The Roman gravel pits within the High Wood settlement, however, (see section on later prehistoric settlements above) suggests it might have quickly been abandoned as a settlement around the time of the roads' construction, although whether the settlement was deliberately quarried in relation to this is unknown.

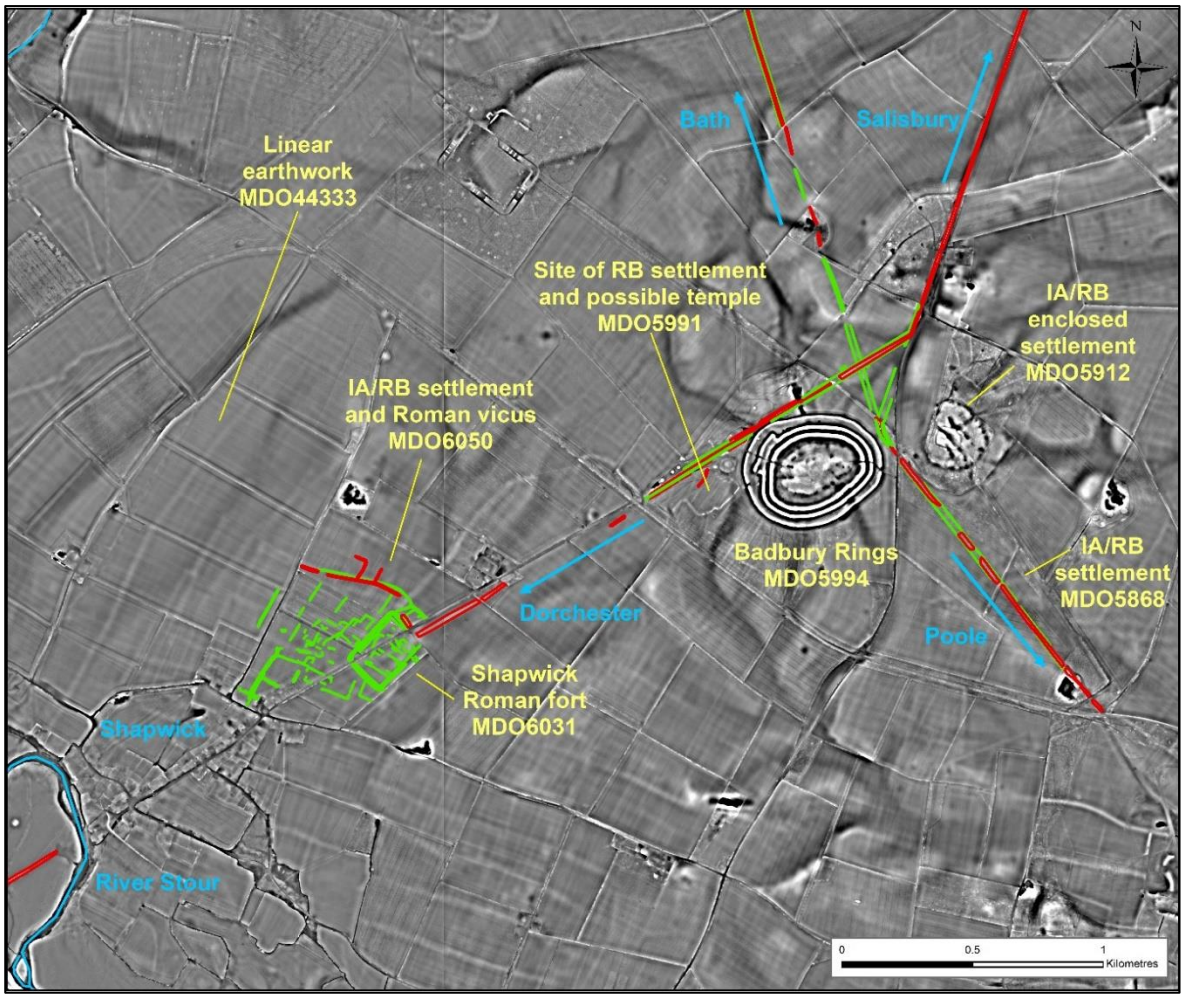

Figure 32: Roman period sites in relation to the convergence of Roman roads at Badbury Rings © Historic England [Lidar imagery source: Environment Agency].

Archaeological evidence along the line of the Roman roads near their convergence at Badbury Rings indicates areas of occupation activity and monumentality from the Late Neolithic period onwards. Areas of Romano-British settlement along the course of the roads typically demonstrate at least Iron Age origins but in places occupation potentially dates back even earlier into the Bronze Age.

In addition to the continuation of existing settlement sites, the course of the Roman roads became a focus for a series of Roman period sites associated with aspects of Roman military, administrative and ritual culture. At Crab Farm, Shapwick, an Iron Age to Roman period settlement (MDO6050) and a Roman fort (MDO6031) occupy an area of over 25ha along what became the route of the Roman road between Dorchester and Badbury Rings. The site is located a short distance east of the current village of Shapwick and occupies a commanding position overlooking a crossing point of the River Stour. The settlement is considered likely to be the site of the Roman town of *Vindocladia*, documented in the *Antonine Itinerary* (Papworth 2011, 178). A further area of Romano-British settlement (MDO5991) on the southwest side of Badbury Rings appears to have incorporated later Bronze Age earthworks, with evidence for Early to Middle Bronze Age activity. The settlement demonstrated occupation between the Iron Age and the 5th century BC. A circular earthwork within the settlement was shown through geophysical survey to contain a square building sub-divided by internal walls surrounded by a covered walkway (Papworth 1996, 134; 2011, 159). Excavations on and around the circular earthwork revealed stone roofing slabs, painted wall-plaster, coins of largely 4th century date, as well as 21 Durotrigian silver and bronze coins. Along with other high-status material finds, the evidence indicated the site of a Roman temple of 1st to 5th century date, which lay just south of an Iron Age settlement site. The wider area of Roman period settlement here was originally identified as the site of Roman *Vindocladia* but opinion on this later shifted to Crab Farm following further investigation there.

Crab Farm, Shapwick

An area of later prehistoric and Romano-British settlement (MDO6050) at Crab Farm, Shapwick, is located in a prime position just over 500m northeast and uphill of a crossing point over the River Stour. The site lies on the northeast side of the modern village of Shapwick and extends north westwards for over 700m to the edge of a scarp above Crab Farmhouse from where there are clear views across to Badbury Rings. Investigation at the site has shown evidence of activity from the Early Bronze Age onwards. Boundary earthworks of Middle to Late Bronze Age date were incorporated and re-used during the Iron Age when an enclosed settlement was established on the crest of the scarp (Putnam 2007, 76). A linear earthwork (MDO44333) visible to the north of Shapwick on lidar

extends north eastwards for over 2km from the edge of the River Stour (see Fig 32). This feature was mapped by the project and, although undated, is considered likely to be of later prehistoric origin. It could potentially be associated with an alternative routeway across the river here, or possibly some form of territorial boundary, although this remains conjectural based on aerial evidence alone

The site continued to be occupied into the Roman period. An area of Late Iron Age to early Roman settlement potentially underlies present-day Shapwick, based on the discovery of a pit containing 1st to 2nd century pottery (Papworth 1990, 117). Fields on the northeast side of the village include the names ‘Blacklands’ and ‘Wall Furlong’, names typically associated with Roman period settlement sites (*ibid*). Fieldwalking, survey and excavation within the settlement site to the northeast of Shapwick have recorded occupation activity and artefacts dating between the 2nd and 4th centuries, including the presence of high-status buildings, possibly the site of a Roman villa (MDO6049) (Papworth 1991, 172-3; 2011, 117). Particular features associated with the Roman period settlement include a possible mortuary enclosure on the west side of the main settlement, and an open area, possibly a marketplace or meeting place, close to its centre, beside the road.

At some time during the 2nd or 3rd century a triple-ditched fortification (MDO6031) was constructed over the southwest half of the settlement. The backfilled ditches of the fort were found to contain 4th century material, suggesting it went out of use during this period (Papworth 1991, 172-3). The Roman road to Dorchester was shown by Papworth (2011, 163) to overlie the backfilled ditches, indicating that this section of the road at least was a late Roman construction, although it seems likely that an older routeway of some importance crossed the River Stour at or close to this location prior to the road being built, given the complexity and juxtaposition of later prehistoric and Roman period sites in this vicinity. The outline of the fort, alongside other features within the settlement site, is visible as cropmarks on an aerial photograph dated 1976 (Fig 33) and as earthworks on lidar imagery (Fig 32).

The indications at Crab Farm, Shapwick, are that a native Iron Age to Romano-British settlement developed into a vicus or small town associated with the fort during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, possibly established to defend the crossing point of the river on what might have been an important routeway even before the Roman road was constructed. At least some of the inhabitants of the settlement were able to demonstrate wealth and status, perhaps those associated with Roman military or administrative control in the area.

Figure 33: The Roman fort and vicus at Crab Farm, Shapwick [JRB 3096/8 02-JUL-1976 © Historic England NMR (Boyden Collection)].

Conflict and defence in the Middle Stour Valley

During the early part of the 20th century Britain's landscape was transformed by a huge variety of military constructions built as part of the country's wartime infrastructure for combat and defence. Areas of down and heathland, country houses and estates, and urban parks were commandeered as military training areas, camps, storage depots and for the construction of airfields and hospitals. During the Second World War, the south coast of England became the front-line of the European conflict and was fortified in response to the threat of German invasion (codename Operation Sealion), a threat which intensified following the fall of France to the Germans in May 1940.

On 27th May 1940, an anti-invasion strategy to organise the defence of Britain was established under the directive of the Home Defence Executive, which was formed under General Ironside, Commander-in-Chief Home Forces. As part of this strategy a range of anti-invasion defences were set up, including beach defences, defensive stop-lines and nodal point defences, also known as anti-tank islands. The stop-lines were frequently improvised from existing features such as waterways, railway lines, embankments, and bridges, for example, which were then defended with pillboxes and enhanced with anti-tank obstacles. Anti-tank islands were set up at key locations that could be adapted to form all-round tactical defensive points (CBA 1996, 78; Dobinson 1996, 32).

During 1940, Dorset formed part of Southern Command territory, which stretched from the Hampshire/Sussex border in the east to the tip of Cornwall in the west and extended northwards as far as the southern fringes of the Midlands. The defensive strategy for Southern Command was in the charge of V Corps, with implementation of this in Dorset passed down to 50 Division (Dobinson 1996, 94). Blandford Forum, the main town in the project area, being sited on a major bridging point of the River Stour, was one of the Dorset towns selected as a focal point for Dorset's anti-invasion defences and the Blandford Stop-Line was formed around it, with the town itself chosen as the site of an anti-tank island (*ibid*). No defensive sites or structures associated with the stop-line or anti-tank island were identified from the aerial sources available to the project, but several were recorded by the Defence of Britain Project, including a series of pillboxes, anti-tank obstacles and a rail block.

Within the project area, four military camps of Second World War date were recorded to the south of Blandford Forum: at Charborough Park, Morden (MDO4647), Whatcombe Park, Winterborne Whitechurch (MDO46228), Robinson Farm, Bloxworth (MDO46750) and Down House, Blandford St Mary (MDO45813). Although the functions of these camps remain largely unknown, they might have served as ancillary camps associated with either the defensive network or, more likely, preparations for the D-Day offensive.

The Wartimes.ca website (Wartimes.ca, 2018) records the camp at Charborough Park (AAF-432) as having housed part of the US Army 1557 Quartermasters Battalion. The evidence from aerial photographs suggest that the camp was fully abandoned by March 1945, perhaps indicating its usefulness preceded the D-Day preparations (Fig 34).

Aerial photographs dated 1945 and 1947 show the camps at Whatcombe Park and Down House clearly still extant at that time (Figs 35 and 36).

Figure 34: A military camp at Charborough Park, Morden, disused by March 1945 [RAF/106G/LA 163 RS 4075 05-MAR-1945 Historic England RAF Photography].

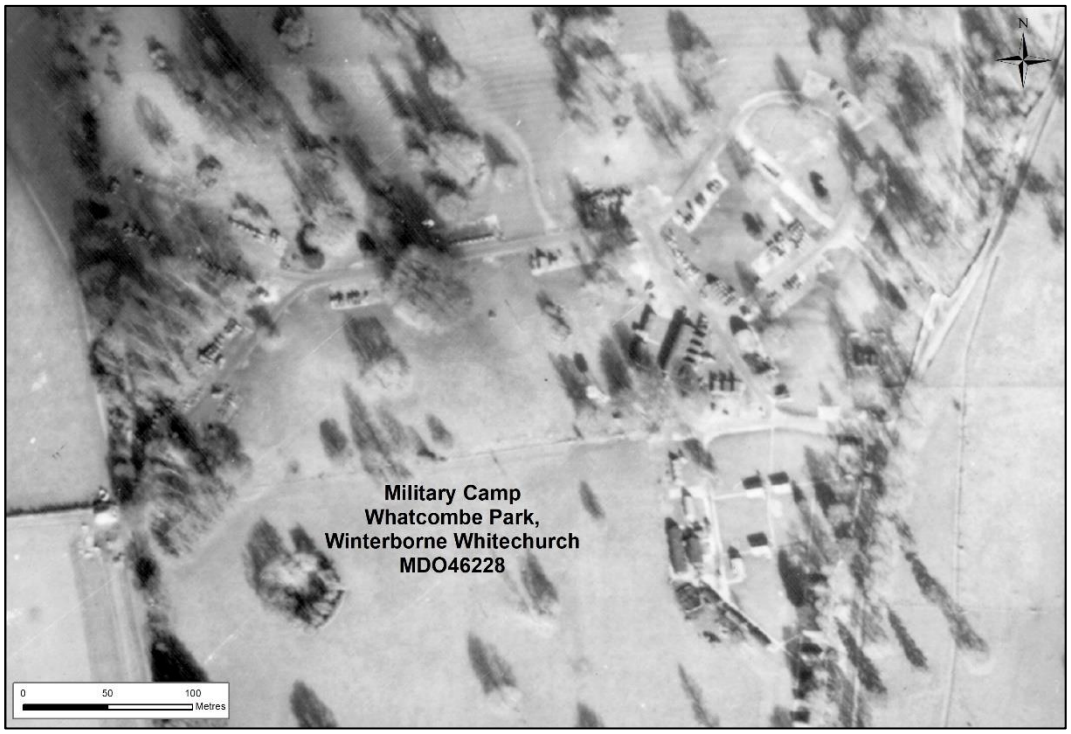

Figure 35: A military camp at Whatcombe Park, Winterborne Whitechurch [RAF/106G/LA 128 FV 7049 10-FEB-1945 Historic England RAF Photography].

An RAF aerial photograph of Down House, Blandford St Mary (MDO45813) shows a group of 36 buildings to the east of the ruined house (following a fire in 1941), in what is now an area of woodland (Fig 36); several of the hut platforms are still visible on lidar imagery. To the south and southwest of the buildings are several contemporary enclosures possibly formed by fencing or barbed wire (Fig 36). The camp is documented as having housed part of the US Rangers 1st Division, who were returned to England in 1943 following the Allied invasion of Sicily to prepare for the eventual Normandy Invasion (Le Bas 2020; http://www.riley.army.mil/AboutUs/History.aspx). To the south of Down House, visible on the same RAF 1947 aerial photograph, are a series of pit-like features and linears (MDO45977), forming small clusters and linear groupings. These could form part of a military training area but most, if not all, are considered more likely to be bomb craters; an unverified account records a bombing attack on Blandford Forum on November 18th 1940, when an estimated 100 explosive devices were dropped on the town and its outskirts (Blandford Express 2023).

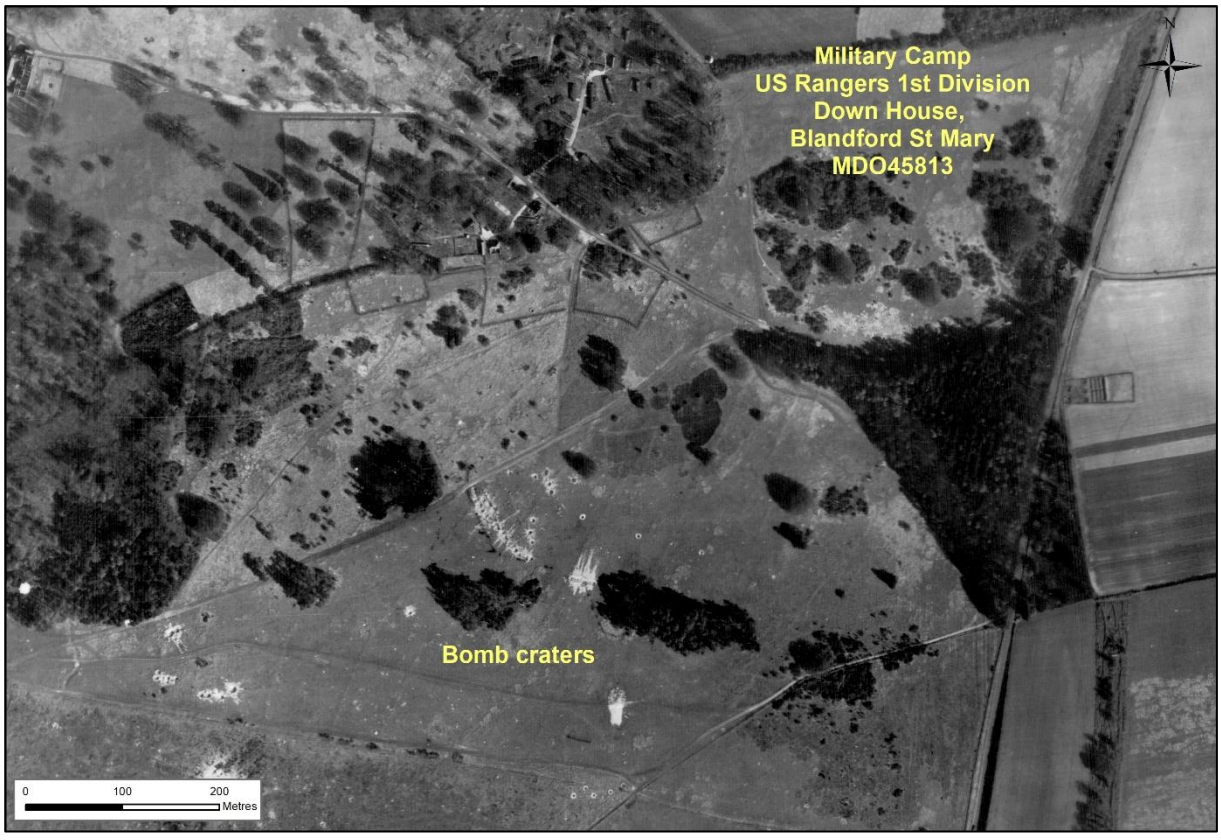

Figure 36: A military camp at Down House, Blandford St Mary [RAF/CPE/UK/1975 FP 1016 11-APR-1947 Historic England RAF Photography].

Blandford Camp

Blandford Down, to the northeast of Blandford Forum, is the site of Blandford Camp, which has a long and varied military history extending back as far as the 18th century. Underlying the camp within this area of former downland are numerous prehistoric sites, and earthworks relating to these have been recorded by the project from early aerial photographs and lidar imagery (see Fig 37, for example). The first recorded use of the site was as a racecourse (MDO5005). Races are documented as early as 1603 and were discontinued in 1843. The line of the racecourse is recorded on the OS 1st Edition map and a long curving earthwork corresponding with this is visible on a 1920s aerial photograph and was mapped by the project (Fig 37).

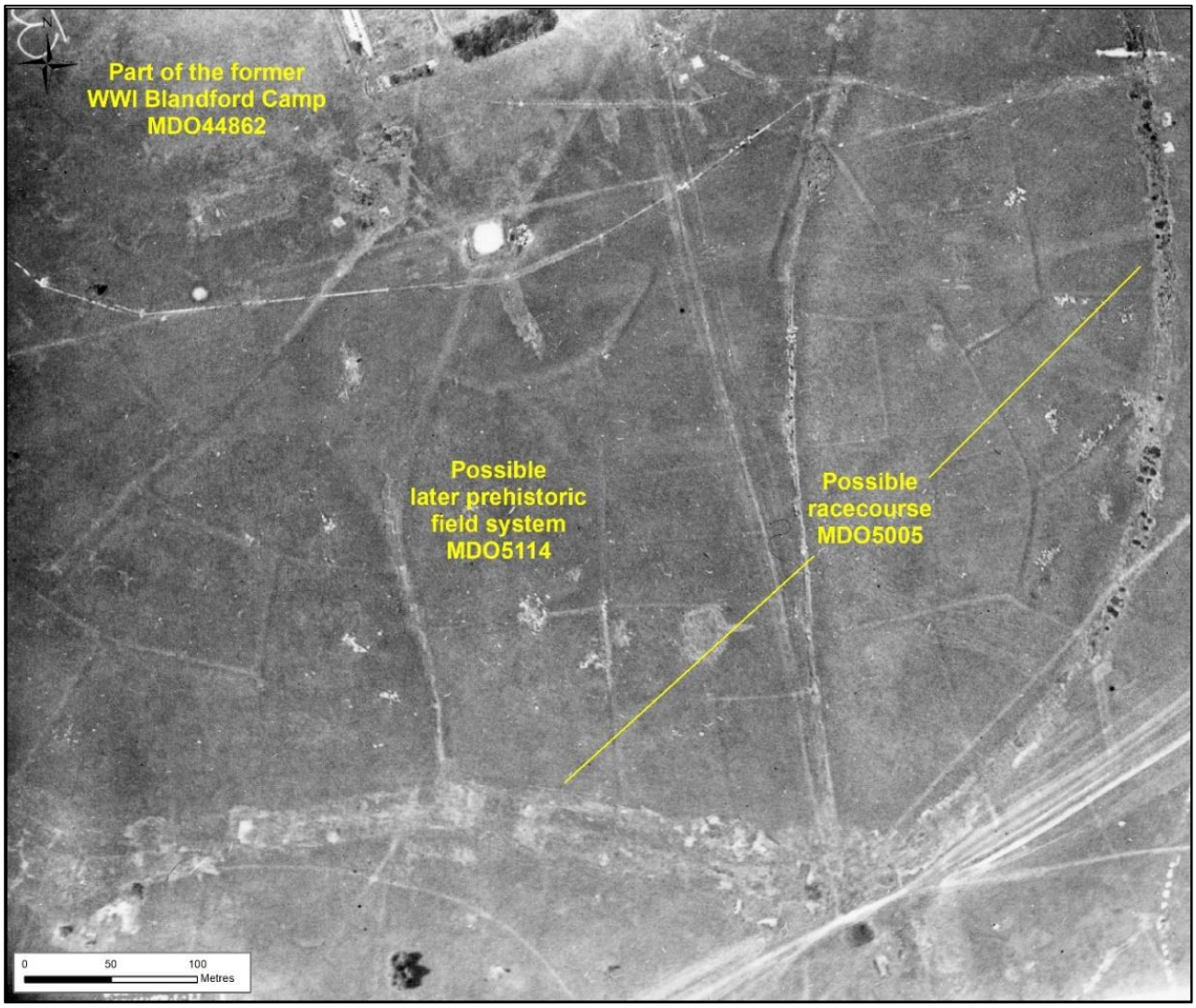

Figure 37: Earthwork remains of early 17th century racecourse on Blandford Down [CCC 8837/422 17-JUL-1928 © Historic England Archive (Crawford Collection)].

Military use of the site began in the 18th century when local volunteers used it as a training ground. Troops were stationed in the area in the early 1720s, the earliest recorded regiment being the 7th Hussars (Willoughby 2023). In 1806 a Royal Navy Shutter Telegraph Station was built within Telegraph Clump (https://www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk/history-of-blandford-camp/).

During the First and Second World wars, Blandford Camp saw use by the Royal Navy, the Army and the RAF, and even the US Army as a hospital. In 1914 the Royal Naval Division (RND) established a base depot and training camp on the site and instruction on trench construction and trench warfare was carried out within the camp area. A German Prisoner-of-War (POW) camp (MDO44875) was set up on the east side of the camp. POWs were hired out to local farmers and paid 4d an hour (Willoughby 2023). During this period poet Rupert Brooke was stationed in Blandford with Hood Battalion, RND. Here he penned his renowned poem 'The Soldier'. The men of the Division left Blandford Camp in February 1915 for Gallipoli and the camp became the RND Depot (*ibid*). During 1918 the camp was taken over by the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) as an intake camp. Also in 1918, a branch railway (MDO4207) was constructed, linking the camp with the mainline near Blandford Forum. The camp and the railway went out of use by 1919 and the site was returned to agricultural use.

Aerial photographs taken by OGS Crawford during the late 1920s show the remains of the First World War camp, as well as associated features such as the military railway. In a 1928 aerial photograph the outlines of the camp, hut foundations and the earthworks of practice trenches are visible, superimposed upon the earthworks of later prehistoric field boundaries, trackways and settlement remains (Fig 37). An RAF aerial photograph dated 1947 shows the remains of the former military railway and also the former POW camp, which was later extended to form part of a temporary tented encampment (see Fig 38).

In 1939 Blandford Camp was reactivated as a mobilisation and training centre for reservists and a new wooden hutted camp was built on the site of the former First World War camp. During the course of the Second World War, up until 1944 when the invasion of Europe was underway, the camp was also used for training anti-aircraft units of the Royal Artillery and by a reconnaissance battalion of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, and latterly as a battle training camp (Willoughby 2023). Features associated with this period, which include firing ranges, practice trenches, gun emplacements, the remains of at least two heavy anti-aircraft (HAA) batteries and several barbed wire entanglements, are visible as earthworks and structures on RAF 1940s aerial photographs and lidar imagery and were mapped by the project (Fig 39).

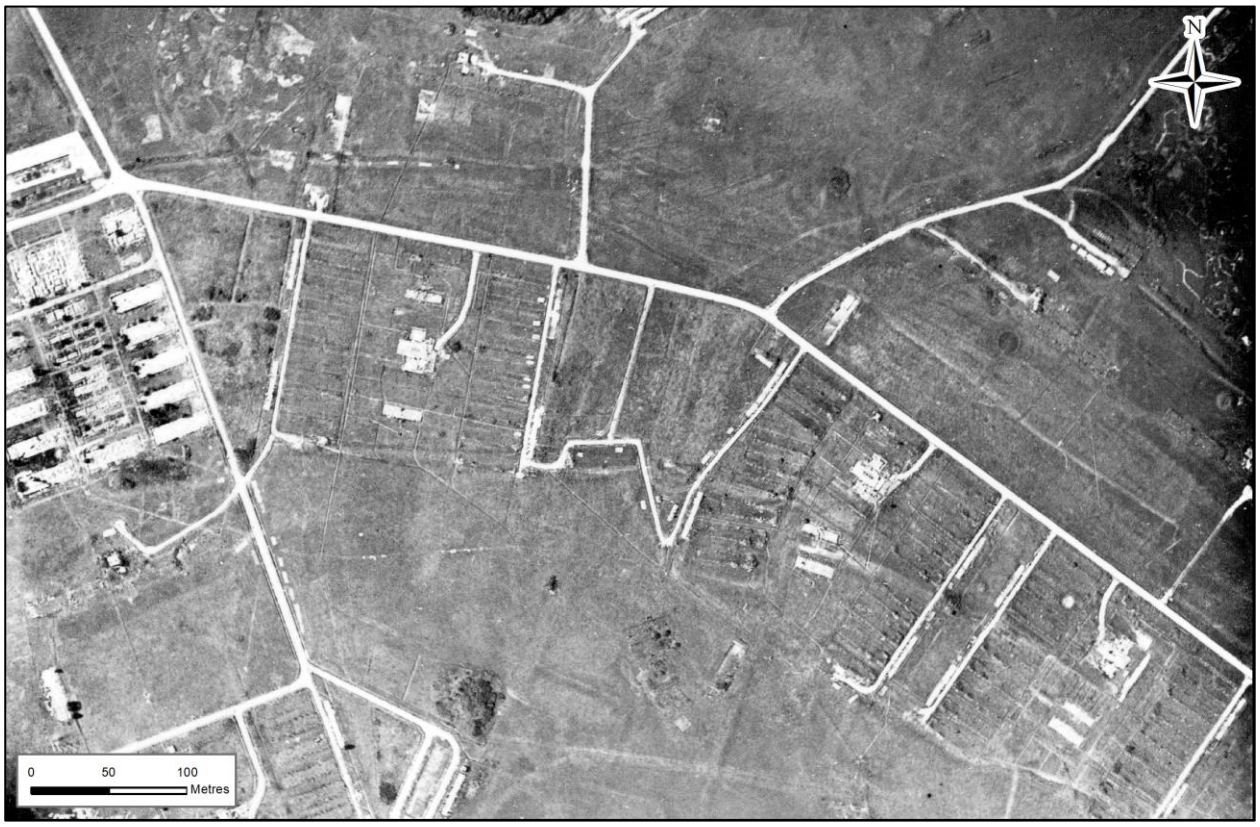

Figure 38: First World War camp remains, Blandford Camp [CCC 8837/419 17-JUL-1928 © Historic England Archive (Crawford Collection)].

In 1944, Blandford Camp was converted into a US hospital complex, with the first of five US Army general hospitals established in the April of that year. RAF aerial photographs dated April 1947 detail some of the structural changes that took place as part of that conversion (Fig 39). The hospitals began receiving patients about two weeks after D-Day and many were brought from the combat area via the airfield at RAF Tarrant Rushton (MDO42716). The hospitals were often working at full capacity, receiving as many as 500 casualties a night. The hospital complex closed after VE Day and the majority of the staff returned to the United States during October 1945 (Willoughby 2023).

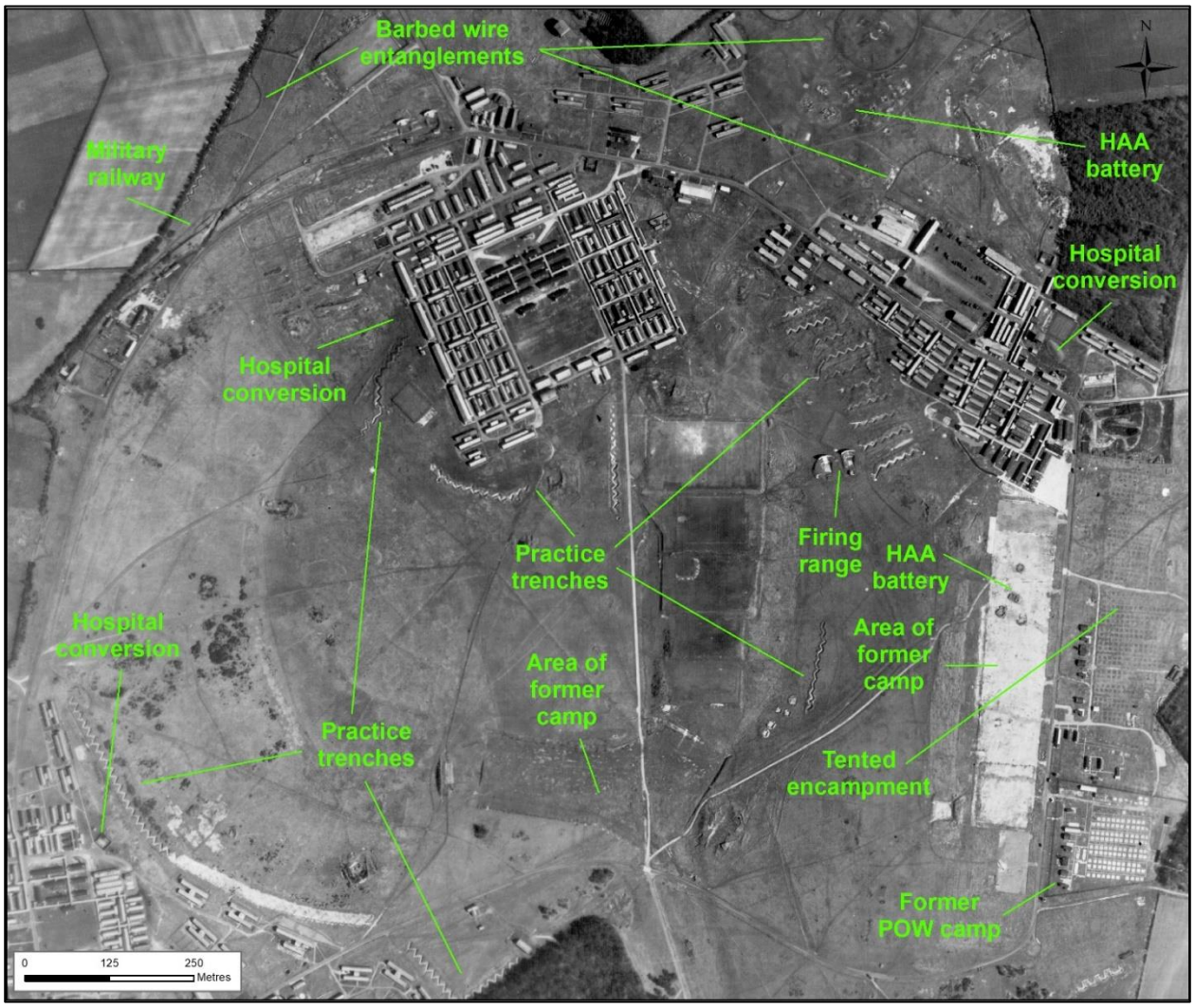

Figure 39: Features within Blandford Camp, as visible in 1947 [RAF/CPE/UK/1975 RS 4008 11-APR-1947 Historic England RAF Photography].

The complexities of use, re-use and adaptation for a site like Blandford Camp show the usefulness of aerial sources in capturing historic detail and change, but also highlight the difficulties with capturing this through transcription methods alone. To mitigate this, much of the Second World War camp was mapped in detail by the project, with the First World War camp largely represented by the AI&M 'extent-of-feature' mapping symbol (orange outline) to illustrate the extent and layout of parts of the First World War camp, where these were visible (Fig 40).

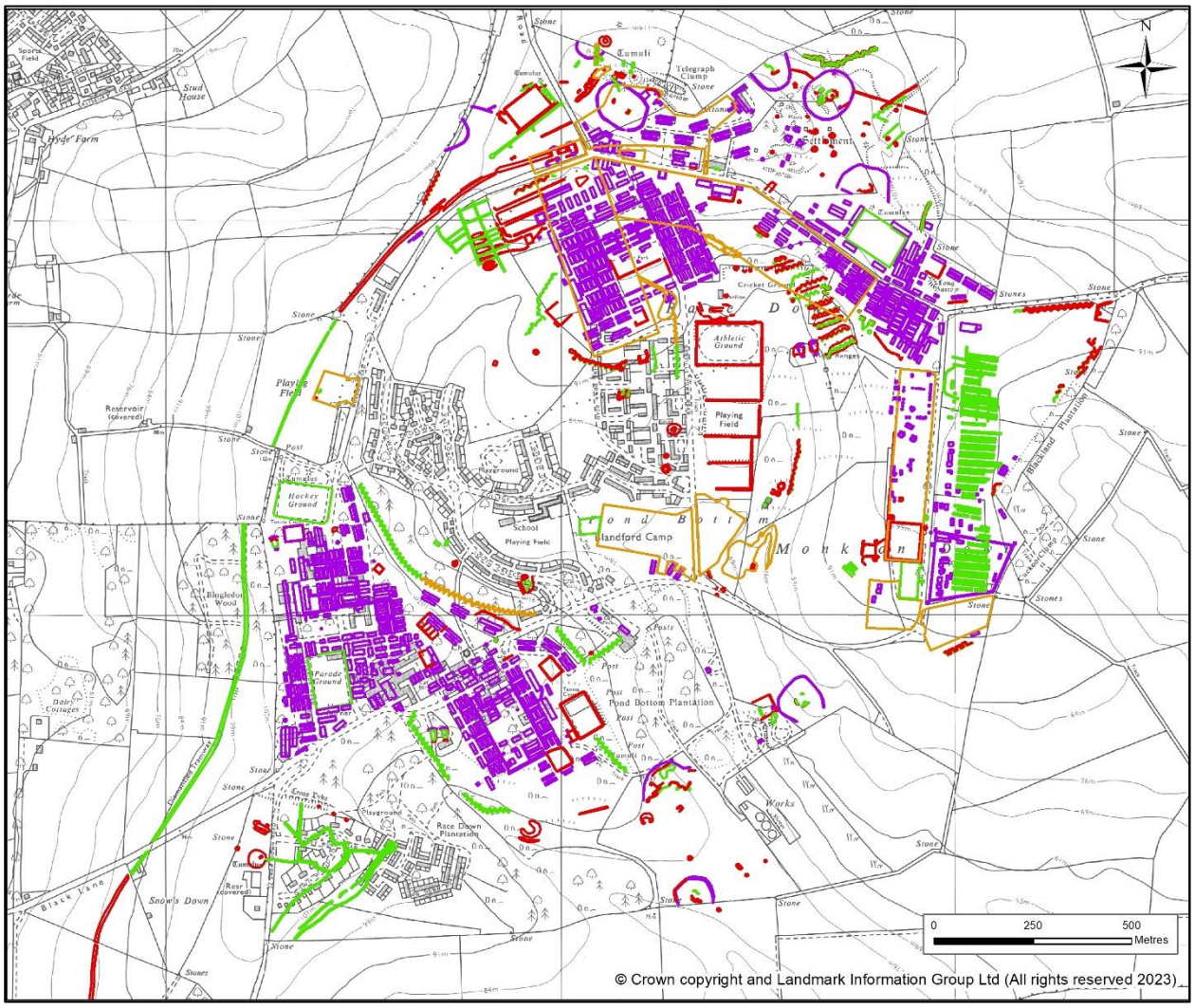

Figure 40: First and Second World War features within Blandford Camp © Historic England. Background map OS Epoch3a_10k dated 1976.

RAF Tarrant Rushton

During the Second World War the Royal Air Force (RAF) acquired 600 new airfields (Dobinson 2000, 175). Construction began on RAF Tarrant Rushton (MDO42716) in May 1942 as the Allied forces began to ramp up the offensive and additional airfields were required for bomber operations, transport and refuelling and training purposes. To accommodate the airfield, Rushton Farm and part of two historic roads were demolished. RAF Tarrant Rushton was handed over to 38 Wing RAF, part of Fighter Command, in May 1943 (Ashworth 1990, 188). The wartime airfield comprised a traditional 'A' shape of three concrete runways with some grass overshoot landing areas, and four Type 2 aircraft hangars. The runways were numbered according to their orientation relative to magnetic

north. The main runway was numbered 01 at its southern end, and 19 at its northern end, the other two other runways being 08/26 and 13/31 (hampshireairfields.co.uk). Aircraft dispersals consisted of six loop standings, a feature of post 1942 airfield design (Dobinson 2000, 212) as well as two pan dispersal points (see Figs 41 and 44). The airfield operated large Hamilcar gliders, Horsa gliders and Hamilton V glider tugs, initially as 298 Squadron and later expanding to form 644 Squadron (Ashworth 1990, 188).

RAF Tarrant Rushton's most important role was immediately prior to and during the D-Day landings of June 1944 (Operation Overlord). 298 and 644 Squadrons dispatched elements of the 6th Airborne Division for the airborne assault on Normandy (Operation Neptune). Supply drops by converted Stirling IV bombers of 190, 196 and 620 Squadrons were also made to the French resistance from Tarrant Rushton. 298 and 644 Squadrons participated in the landings at Arnhem later in 1944 as part of Operation Market Garden (Ashworth 1990, 189). Tarrant Rushton airfield was put into ‘care and maintenance’ from 1946-47. In 1948 it was re-opened to perform refuelling support operations and part of the eastern side of the airfield was modified for this purpose.

From the 1950s Tarrant Rushton was used as a standby airfield for Britain's "V-bomber" jet aircraft. The dispersals at the southern end of the main 01-19 runway (the 01 end) were strengthened to provide hard standings for Vulcan or Victor bombers and a loop was built at the northern end (the 19 end) to enable aircraft to turn and backtrack the runway, avoiding the un-modified perimeter road (Ashworth 1990, 190). An RAF aerial photograph dated January 1956 shows the airfield in its entirety prior to these modifications (Fig 41). The airfield officially closed in 1980.

On its construction in 1943, accommodation was provided at RAF Tarrant Rushton for 2325 male and 386 female personnel (Willis and Hollis 1987, 193). As per the design of the time, ‘clutches’ containing accommodation, messing and recreational facilities were sited at a distance from the airfield technical areas and from each other as protection against attack. The clutches accommodated mixed ranks and Women’s’ Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) personnel were provided with their own self-contained site (Dobinson 2000, 202). The accommodation clutches at RAF Tarrant Rushton are visible on RAF aerial photographs of the 1940s and 1950s, with sufficient detail to identify some of the individual hut-types and functions (Fig 42, for example). Many of the buildings appear from aerial sources to have consisted of wartime military standard huts, including Maycrete and Nissen huts (Figs 42 and 43).

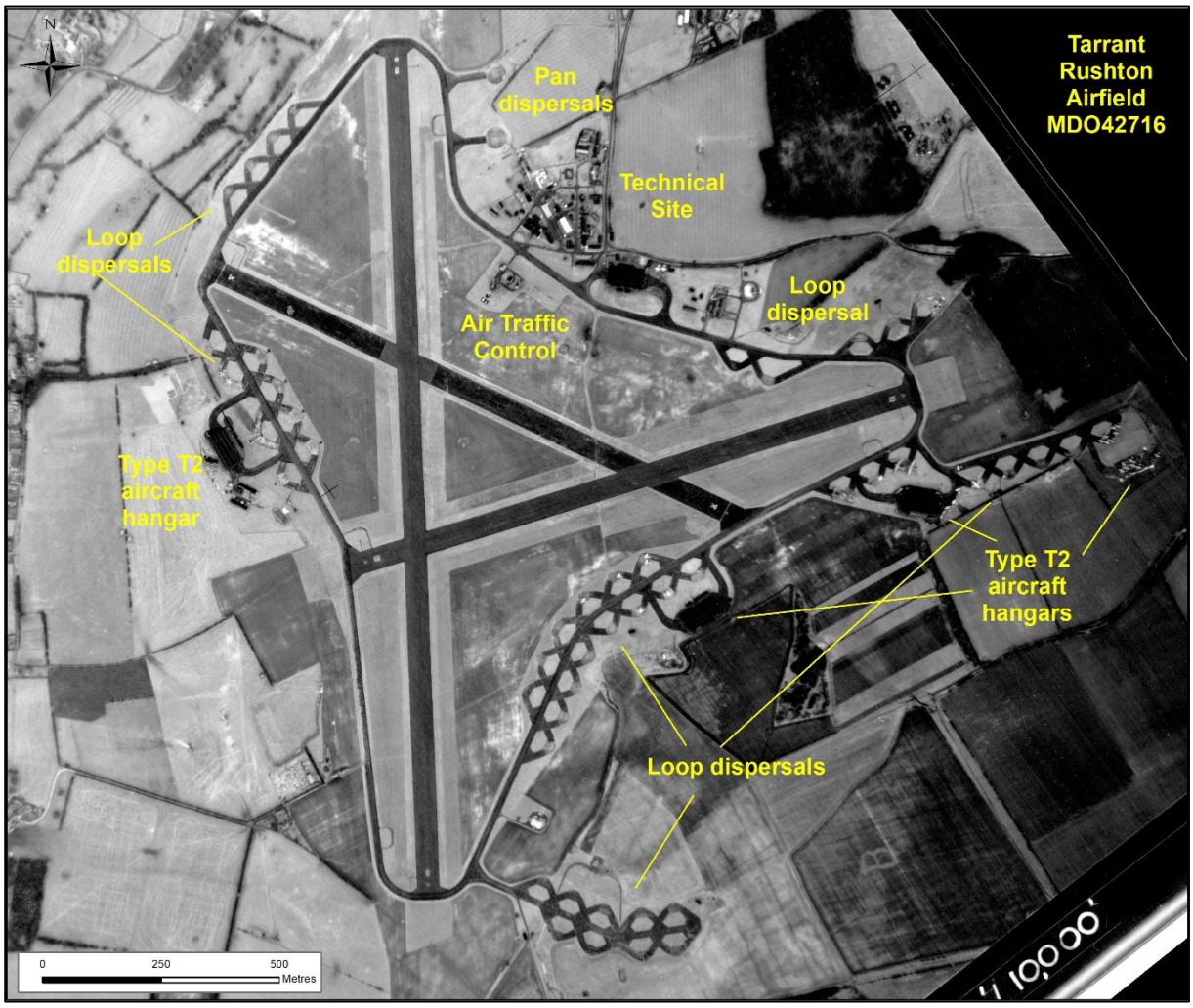

Figure 41: RAF Tarrant Rushton Airfield in January 1956 [RAF/540/1789 V 0021 25-JAN-1956 Historic England RAF Photography].

Also visible within the technical and accommodation areas at RAF Tarrant Rushton are numerous blast shelters and other types of defence shelters (Fig 43). Large semi-sunken shelters were common on military airfields, set partially below ground level and embanked with earth. Typically comprised of modular pre-cast concrete panels and having a parabolic cross section, these shelters generally had one entrance protected by a brick blast wall and an emergency exit (CBA 1996, 71). Several examples of this type of shelter were constructed within the technical areas of RAF Tarrant Rushton and were mapped by the project (Fig 43).

Figure 42: Accommodation areas at RAF Tarrant Rushton Airfield in 1949 [EAW021685 24-MAR-1949 Historic England NMR (Aerofilms Collection)].

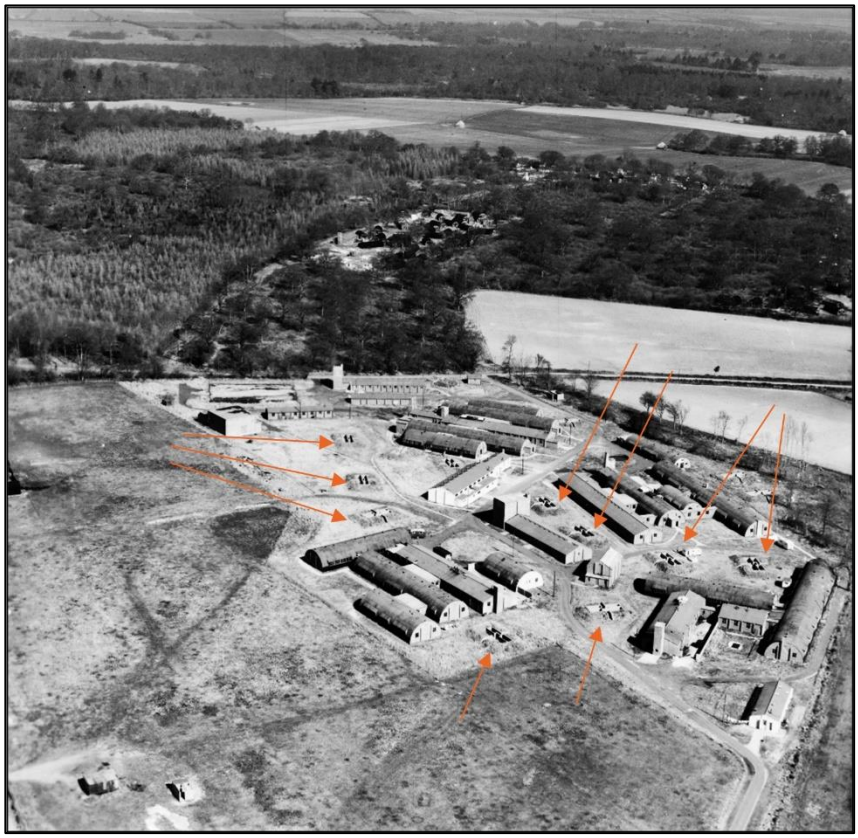

Figure 43: One of the technical areas at RAF Tarrant Rushton Airfield in 1949, with semi-sunken blast shelters (marked by orange arrows) visible within this [EAW021676 24-MAR-1949 Historic England NMR (Aerofilms Collection)].

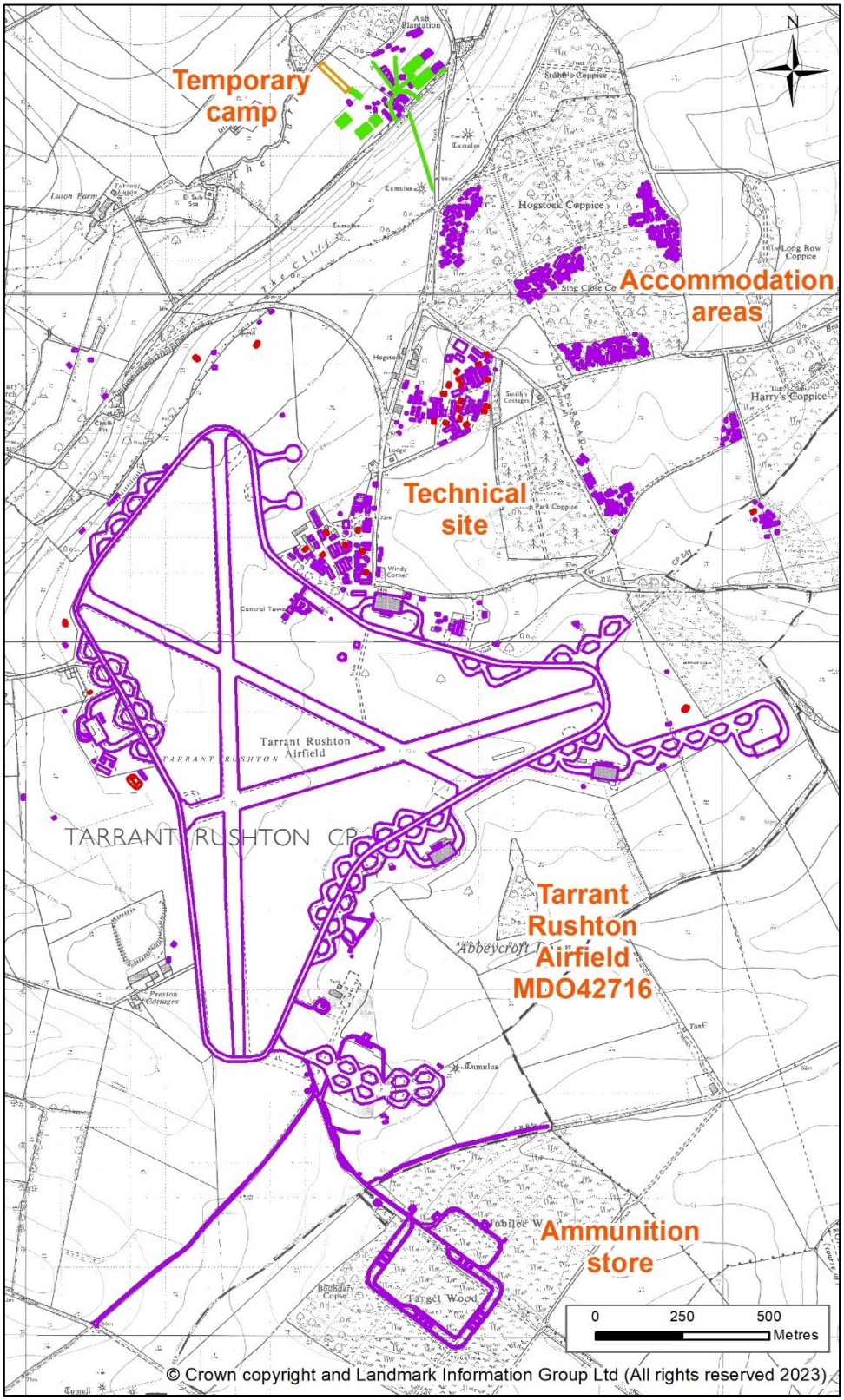

Figure 44: RAF Tarrant Rushton airfield mapped from sources prior to January 1956 © Historic England.
Background map OS Epoch3a_10k dated 1976.

In addition to Tarrant Rushton airfield, three ancillary sites of Second World War date were recorded by the project. Their function and location relative to RAF Tarrant Rushton suggests they were associated with its wartime use.

Temporary camp, RAF Tarrant Rushton

A temporary camp (MDO45230) is visible to the northwest of Tarrant Rushton airfield on 1945 Google Earth imagery (Fig 45). The features comprise a semi-circular track or road accessing the main road to the south, off which are several pathways to groups of huts and rows of tents. The huts are visible as still extant structures in 1945 and the tent sites as square parchmarks (Fig 45).

Figure 45: Temporary camp northwest of RAF Tarrant Rushton Airfield [Google Earth Image 01-01-1945 © 2022 The GeoInformation Group].

The camp extends over an area of approximately 400m by 200m. Central to the southeast edge of the semi-circular track or road and extending from the south side of the main road, is a narrow track which runs southeast towards a vehicle trackway leading towards Tarrant Rushton airfield. RAF aerial photographs of 1946 and 1947 show just a few of the huts still extant by this time, and the semi-circular track or road, plus some of the removed hut pads. An unverified account of the airfield's history documents a camp just up the valley where paratroopers were billeted prior to operations, which might refer to this site (https://www.atlantikwall.co.uk/atlantikwall/ed_t_rushton.php).

Radio telegraphy station, RAF Tarrant Rushton

A Second World War radio telegraphy station (MDO45288) is visible on Little Down, Tarrant Monkton, just over 2km north of Tarrant Rushton Airfield on RAF aerial photographs dated 1947 (Fig 46).

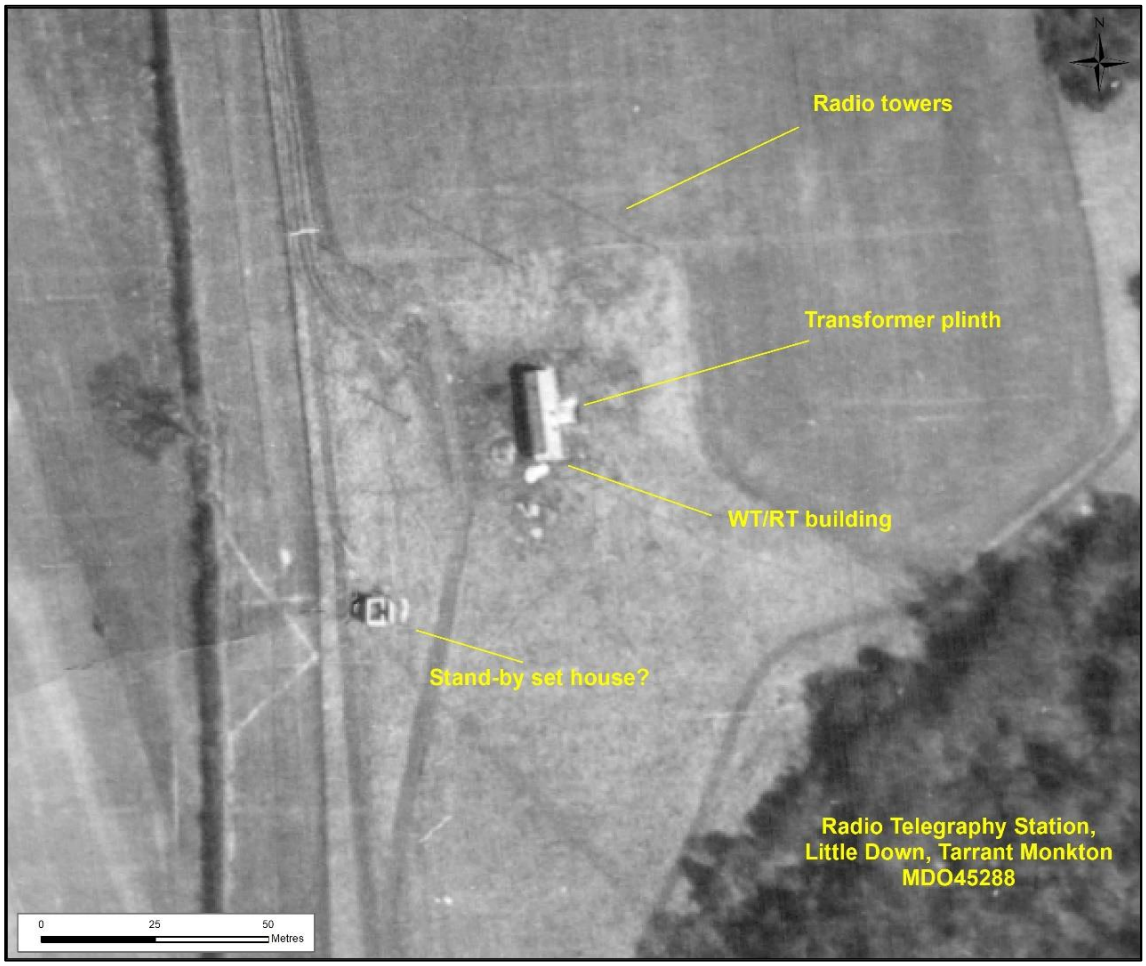

Figure 46: Second World War radio telegraphy station, Little Down, Tarrant Monkton [RAF/CPE/UK/1975 RS 4002 11-APR-1947 Historic England RAF Photography].

The NRHE entry (Hob UID 1479057) records the site as comprising (from east to west) a rectangular transformer plinth and four self-supporting radio towers which are dispersed in an L-shape to the north and west of a rectangular building. The building was probably used for wireless telegraphy and/or radio telephony. RAF aerial photographs dated 1947 also show a roofless rectangular structure to the southwest of the wireless station, possibly a stand-by set house (Fig 46).

High frequency direction finding station, RAF Tarrant Rushton

A Second World War high frequency direction finding station (MDO44835) is visible on RAF 1940s aerial photographs, located just under 1.5km northwest of Tarrant Rushton airfield (Fig 47). An RAF aerial photograph of 1944 reveals a cross hair pattern cut into the chalk, central to which is a circular tower or radar cone. At the southeast end of the long leg of the cross is a rectangular crew hut. A triangular fence or bank contains these structures and part of the cross hair, which extends beyond this. Also visible in 1944 is a square transformer plinth just beyond the east side of the triangular enclosure. An RAF aerial photograph dated 1947 also shows the enclosure and the main structures, although the cross hair has disappeared by this time (Fig 47). The site is probably associated with RAF Tarrant Rushton and may have been used for locating and triangulating aircraft positions.

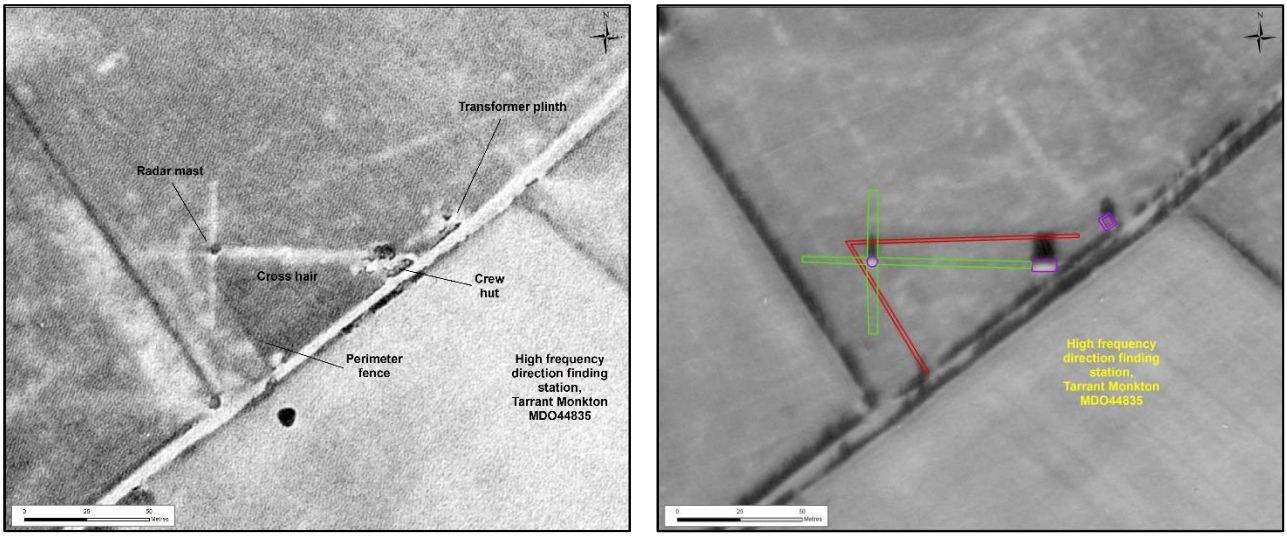

Figure 47: Second World War direction finding station or radar beacon, Tarrant Monkton [RAF/NLA/80 RP 3083 29-MAR-1944; RAF/CPE/UK/1934 V 5151 17-JAN-1947 Historic England RAF Photography].

Conclusion

Outcomes

The mapping of the Lower Dorset Stour has identified 2,258 monuments of which 1,827 (81%) were previously unrecognised or unrecorded in the county and national historic environment databases and 431 (19.1%) were for updated sites in already existing Dorset HER records. Of the 2,258 monuments recorded, 341 (15.1%) were previously recorded in the NRHE national database.

The project mapped a wide range of sites from the Neolithic through to the early 20th century, which demonstrated aspects of later prehistoric monumentality, a range of settlement and agricultural activity through prehistory and into the medieval period, a distinctively Roman landscape centred on the convergence of Roman roads at Badbury Rings, a range of post-medieval extractive sites, and various 20th century military sites focussed on Blandford Forum, Blandford Camp and Tarrant Rushton airfield. The mapping of these sites revealed the complex nature of the chalk landscapes within the project area, the relationship between sites of different periods and the influence of one on another, the modification and re-use of earlier features within later sites as well as the abiding continuity of many of the substantial earthworks associated with land organisation, territoriality and control over centuries of settlement and land-use in the area. This created some issues of attribution of dating and function in some cases, particularly within agricultural landscapes where trackways, field boundaries and patterns of enclosure often demonstrated long use, re-use and modification.

Lidar in particular has considerably extended our understanding of the extent of earthwork survival across the project area, particularly in regard to later prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval field systems, which dominate the chalk landscapes of the Stour Valley and Cranborne Chase. Lidar has also been of particular merit in identifying the detail of survival for sites such as the enclosed Iron Age settlements and hillfort of Buzbury and Badbury Rings, as well as medieval deserted or shrunken settlements and deer park earthworks where the latter are obscured by extant hedges and/or tree cover. Likewise, the number and density of post-medieval extractive features are particularly identifiable using lidar imagery, with many of these also in areas where vegetation and trees can obscure on aerial photographs.

Aerial photographs taken when conditions have been favourable, however, have allowed some sites to be revealed as cropmarks or soilmarks where only below ground remains survive and are therefore undetectable on lidar. This has been particularly beneficial in

identifying and mapping detail of many later prehistoric settlements and enclosures, as well as barrows and barrow cemeteries, for example. Some of the earliest aerial photographs, those of the Crawford collection and RAF aerial photographs of the 1940s and early 1950s have particularly assisted in identifying short-lived wartime sites and changes in use within larger and more long-lived military sites, such as Blandford Camp, during the First and Second World Wars. The ephemeral nature of wartime sites can often result in these being overlooked or misidentified when relying solely on later aerial sources. These early aerial photographs can also be helpful in identifying archaeological sites lost to later development, although this has not proved such an issue for this project area, which is predominantly rural.

Heritage value

The distinctive historic character of the project area resides in the sites and monuments of all periods that are to be found within it; both known and unknown. The qualities inherent to a given site (qualified by Historic England as a ‘heritage asset’) define its significance, which determines how it is recognised, valued and managed for present and future generations. Heritage assets can range from a single historic building or archaeological site to incorporate more complex areas and landscapes.

Historic England’s Conservation Principles (English heritage 2008) describe significance in terms of four values: evidential value, historical value, aesthetic value and communal value, which can be used to identify, describe and understand the significance of a place. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting (Historic England 2017, 2). The significance of a place is also a key factor in informing and supporting wider strategic heritage management and decision-making.

- **Evidential value**: the potential of a place to yield evidence about the past.
- **Historical value**: the ways in which past events, people and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.
- **Aesthetic value**: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulations from a place.
- **Communal value:** The meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

The Evidential value of the project area is substantial and can be demonstrated in the wealth of sites mapped by the project. These are related to a variety of human activities across a range of archaeological periods and often with a degree of preservation that is

crucial to our understanding of past landscapes and the interactions of people and communities over time. The range of sites mapped for each archaeological period demonstrates their distinctive character through aspects of morphology, function and relationships. These help us understand individual archaeological sites through their physical character and function and help inform on meaning and social significance. The juxtaposition and association between sites of different periods further help us to identify potential relationships and aspects of continuity, as well as how the meaning of various sites to past communities might be understood and respected by those that follow.

The Historical value of the project area lies in the extent to which the landscape can link past people and events to the present. Historical value can be either associative or illustrative. The visibility of monuments in the landscape is the clearest demonstration of illustrative value, providing a tangible link between present and past communities. Some of the sites mapped by the project, however, either no longer survive or are mapped from evidence that can only demonstrate below ground survival (such as cropmarks, for example), where nothing above ground can necessarily be seen. In these cases, illustrative value might be considered absent or substantially reduced. Nonetheless. within the project area there is very good earthwork survival for sites covering a range of periods and functions: these include prehistoric funerary and ceremonial monuments, field systems, settlements and boundary earthworks, Roman roads and an associated fort, medieval settlements and field systems, deer parks and parish boundaries, post-medieval extractive features and several sites associated with the two World Wars.

Associative value can be considered to lie in the way a site or monument can directly link to past people or events. Examples might include the way certain prehistoric linear earthworks were used to divide and organise land in the past and how this has influenced land organisation into the present day. Or the ways in which medieval deer parks demonstrated aspects of lordship and control through high status display, many of these former sites being preserved in subsequent patterns of land enclosure and enduring place-name evidence. The evidence for the areas' role during the two World Wars has reduced visibility now, with many of the sites connected with this time having been short-lived or rapidly re-used or developed over, but their associative value with these periods of conflict in terms of historical value is nonetheless high.

Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people engage with a place through finding meaning or sensory stimulation in their surroundings. The northern part of the project area incorporates parts of the Cranborne Chase and Dorset Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), designated in recognition of the aesthetic value of the local landscape and the historical processes that helped form it. Across the chalk downland and within the

lower-lying river valleys, the historic landscape, with its pattern of farms, villages, and fields has intrinsic time-depth of settlement and agriculture and patterns of land organisation. Its aesthetic value is therefore deeply rooted in its historical and cultural development, which has resulted in distinctive areas of landscape character.

Place-name evidence, where attached to sites such as barrows, settlements, deer parks, for example, and other significant visible monuments within the landscape is another powerful indicator of associative value and the strength of meaning and significance attached to local landmarks by the communities who live nearby. This is amply demonstrated within the project area and examples include; Spettisbury, Buzbury and Badbury Rings, the ‘Bury’ and ‘Rings’ elements being typically associated with prehistoric fortified settlements or hillforts; Kennel Wood and Stag Gate Wood associated with the former deer park at Charborough Park and Old Park and additional Park names within the former Lytchett Matravers deer park; Telegraph Clump, referring to the former Telegraph Station north of Blandford Camp; Windmill Burrow Farm, Lytchett Matravers, associated with the site of a former windmill mound and bowl barrow, as well as place-names illustrating landscape or land-use elements, such as Winterborne, Old English meaning ‘a stream that dries up in summer’ (Gelling 2000, 19), Lytchett (Lytchett Matravers), Old English meaning ‘grey forest’ (Gelling 2000, 190), or Shapwick, Old English meaning ‘sheep farm’ (Muir 2000, 182).

Associative value and Communal value are often interlinked, and local place-names are an exemplar of the ways in which community engagement with a place can endure through names and their inherent meaning. Community value is also illustrated within the AONB areas, with multiple community engagement projects, such as the Chase and Chalk Landscape Partnership Scheme About The Chase & Chalke Landscape Partnership - Cranborne Chase National Landscape, for example, which aims to better connect people with the landscape. Dorset HER team also encourage community engagement opportunities and one of the outputs of this project are a series of presentations that volunteers can engage with to understand AI&M approaches to interpretation and mapping using aerial sources, and how to use the results to ground truth future landscape surveys. When researching the wartime history of Blandford Forum and the sites of Blandford Camp and Tarrant Rushton airfield, many of the accounts available online were from local researchers or interest groups, which filled in the factual evidence with local detail of the role Blandford played during the two World Wars, and how local people engaged with this and were impacted by it.

The Dorset Middle Stour AI&M project has been able to considerably enhance knowledge and understanding of the range of archaeological sites recorded for the project area,

whether surviving, lost or buried; all of which would be considered to contribute to the distinctive character of the area and to its heritage value. The project has, furthermore, been able to demonstrate the considerable extent and landscape context of some of the more complex sites but has equally highlighted some of the issues with defining these, particularly where sources such as lidar are showing these might be greater in extent than previously thought or juxtaposed with other features of different date and/or function. This is particularly true, for example, of the many later prehistoric field systems that stretch across the project area, in places merging sites previously considered to be separate, or demonstrating a greater time-depth of use and complexity.

In terms of heritage value, some already known sites within the project area are recognised as having national significance and as such have designated protection through the Historic England scheduling system. Enhancing our understanding of existing scheduled sites and identifying new candidates helps ensure protection is appropriate and up to date. Many of these Scheduled sites are generated from the 'old county number' (OCN) scheduling record and are amongst the oldest designations, with often limited details and potentially out of date monument areas. The issues of defining sites in terms of understanding and context are further exacerbated by the issues of defining value and significance in regard to those sites meriting further protection. This can be demonstrated by an example of sites at Old Park, Bryanston (Fig 48). Existing sites recorded in the Dorset HER include two later prehistoric/Romano-British field systems (MDO3629 and MDO3767) to the north and south of two shallow east to west running valleys. Several lynchets (MDO3623) on the south-facing slope of the northernmost valley might be medieval additions within field system MDO3767. Field system MDO3629 on the south side of the southernmost valley is partially delimited as a Scheduled Monument (List Entry 1002427) – see area outlined in pink in Figure 48.

A small concentration of earthworks between field systems MDO3767 and MDO3629 is recorded as an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement (MDO3628). The settlement is also documented as being part of Scheduled Monument 1002427 in the Dorset HER, but this is not illustrated by the Scheduled Area. Lidar imagery has revealed additional areas of later prehistoric fields that infill between MDO3629 and MDO3767. These are recorded under MDO44818 but potentially demonstrate the survival of a much larger cohesive and likely broadly contemporary field system in this area, of probable Iron Age to Romano-British date but with possible re-use and alteration during the medieval period. Additional earthworks to the west and southwest of the Scheduled Area are likely associated and appear to demonstrate near equal preservation. There is, therefore, an argument here for extending the current Scheduled Area to include at least more of the southwestern portion

of field system MDO3629 and possibly part of field system MDO44818, but the issues in delimiting sites such as these for protection is clear.

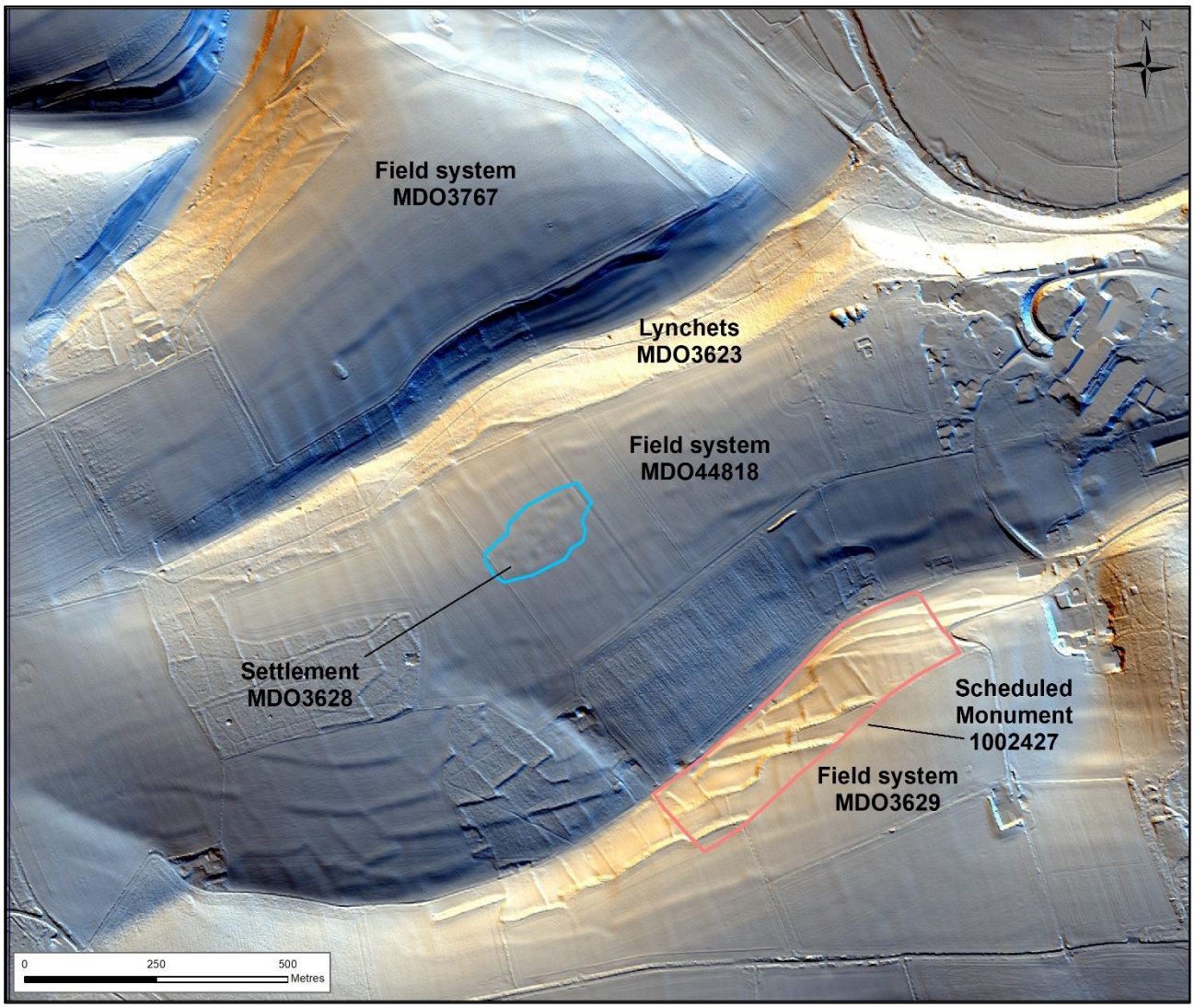

Figure 48: Later prehistoric field systems and settlement at Old Park, Bryanston, scheduled area outlined in pink [Lidar imagery source; Environment Agency].

Management and Designations

The aerial mapping survey of the Dorset Middle Stour river catchment, from aerial photographs and lidar, will be made available for use within the Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER) and will be added to Historic England's Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer (arcgis.com). The mapping has

provided an enhanced level of detail regarding the extent, form and interpretation of archaeological features within the project area and has contributed to the understanding of the historic character of this part of Dorset as well as informing the heritage values discussed above. In conjunction with information available in the Dorset HER database it can be used to inform future planning and management decision-making. It will also help demonstrate the extent of the archaeological resource of the area and levels of survival, which will inform land management and historic environment management frameworks.

As discussed above, some of the sites within the project area have been designated as being of national importance, and as such have some protection through scheduling. The project results have been able to enhance understanding of these sites and help inform where protection needs reviewing or updating and identify new sites that might merit consideration for protection. It has been shown, however, that even undesignated sites within the project area can possess considerable historic or archaeological significance. Continuing to enhance understanding of the historic landscape, at a local, regional and national level, is therefore of vital importance as management of the Historic Environment increasingly competes with the threats from large-scale development, aggregate and infrastructure schemes and the priorities of agri-Environment and Land Management schemes, which are typically focussed more on landscape protection and conservation than necessarily heritage preservation. Recommendations for future work would therefore include:

- Continuing programmes of aerial reconnaissance, particularly during the summer months, to maximise the potential for discovery of new sites through aerial survey.
- Further AI&M projects to capture and synthesise the results of new sites identified through aerial survey. The enhanced knowledge provided by future AI&M projects would align with the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2023) in the creation of new knowledge and achieving greater recognition and promotion of the historic environment and heritage.
- Further investigation of sites recorded from aerial photographs through ground-based investigation. There is potential public benefit to be had in this area too, providing opportunities for communities to engage in fieldwork projects. The results of further investigation of identified sites would particularly align with and feed into the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) (Grove and Croft 2012) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023). They would also align with the current Historic England Corporate Plan (Historic England 2023).

- Enhanced Designations. The aerial investigation and mapping have added to the interpretation of a number of important archaeological monuments within the project area. In some cases, the extent of previously known sites is suggested to be greater than that included in the current designation and ground-based survey would be recommended to assess the extent and condition these and inform appropriate protection. For some others the grid references for location may need checking for accuracy. A list of the potentially national and regionally important sites that would merit further assessment is included in Appendices 3 and 4.

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Appendix 1 - Methods

Sources

Images

- Historic England Archive (HEA) vertical aerial photographs (prints and digital)
- Historic England Archive (HEA) oblique aerial photographs (prints and digital)
- 12.5cm resolution vertical aerial photographic imagery, and colour infrared, provided by Next Perspectives through the Aerial Photography for Great Britain (APGB) agreement
- Google Earth imagery
- Lidar visualisations using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT) Relief Visualization Toolbox (RVT) | ZRC SAZU (zrc-sazu.si):
    - Hillshade
    - Local relief model
    - Slope
    - Openness negative
    - Openness positive

Datasets

- Dorset Historic Environment Record (HER)
- National record of the Historic Environment (NRHE)
- National Heritage List for England (NHLE)

Other Sources

- Ordnance Survey modern and historic mapping
- OS Opendata
- LandIS soilscapes and BGS geological information

- Published and grey literature
- County journals
- ADS online database
- Web-based resources

Archaeological scope

Cropmarks, parchmarks, soilmarks

All sub-surface archaeological remains visible as cropmarks, parchmarks or soilmarks were recorded.

Earthworks

All archaeological earthworks visible on aerial photographs were mapped and recorded. This included features visible as earthworks on early photographs but subsequently levelled, as well as archaeological features marked on the OS maps.

Buildings and Structures

All foundations of buildings visible as cropmarks, soilmarks, parchmarks, earthworks or ruined stonework were mapped and recorded. Standing roofed or unroofed buildings are not generally mapped except in specific archaeological contexts (for example, industrial and military complexes and Second World War bomb sites). Other stone, concrete, metal and timber structures that were of archaeological relevance (for example, fish traps, timber circles) were also mapped.

Ridge and furrow

All areas of medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow were mapped using standard AIM conventions to indicate the extent and direction of the furrows.

Post-medieval field boundaries

All removed field boundaries and field systems were plotted where they were considered to pre-date the OS 1st edition map (*c*1880) and were not already recorded on any other OS map. Where post-medieval field boundaries mapped by the OS may be misinterpreted (for example, within complex areas of archaeological features), these may have been plotted or mentioned in the text record.

Twentieth century Military Features

Military features up to and including the Cold War features visible on aerial photographs or lidar were recorded, including both roofed and unroofed structures.

Industrial Features and Extraction

Areas of industrial archaeology were recorded using the appropriate conventions where they were recognised as predating 1945. Depiction was using the ‘extent-of-feature’ symbol and mapping the main features within the complex. Features mapped included buildings (roofed or unroofed), structures, spoil heaps, and transport features associated with industrial processes. All extractive features believed to predate 1945 were mapped. These included large-scale quarries and industrial clay pits as well as small-scale extraction of resources for immediately local use (chalk pits, marl pits, stone quarries, gravel pits and peat workings).

Transport

Major transport features (that is to say, disused canals and main railways) were not mapped unless considered to be archaeologically significant in the context of the project.

Smaller features (for example, local tramways associated with industrial or military sites and docks) were mapped and recorded, especially in the context of other associated features.

Natural features

Natural features which are geological or geomorphological in origin were excluded. If there was a risk of confusion in contexts with other archaeological features, then natural features were mentioned in the text record.

Mapping and recording conventions

Table 1: AI&M standard layers used in the project.

LAYER NAME	COLOUR	DESCRIPTION
BANK	Red	Used to outline banks, platforms, mounds and spoil heaps.
DITCH	Green	Used to outline cut features such as ditches, ponds, pits or hollow ways.
EXTENT _OF_FEATURE	Orange	Used to depict the extent of large area features such as airfields, military camps, or major extraction.
MONUMENT _POLYGON	White	Used to indicate the extent of the monument record as defined in the NRHE or HER database.
RIDGE_FURROW_AREA	Cyan	Used to outline a block of ridge and furrow.
RIDGE_ AND_FURROW_ALIGNMENT	Cyan	Line (hand drawn not a symbol) depicting the direction of the rigs in a block of ridge and furrow.
SCARP_SLOPE_ EDGE	Blue	The top of the “T” indicates the top of slope and the body indicates the length and direction of the slope. Used to depict scarps, edges of platforms and other large earthworks.

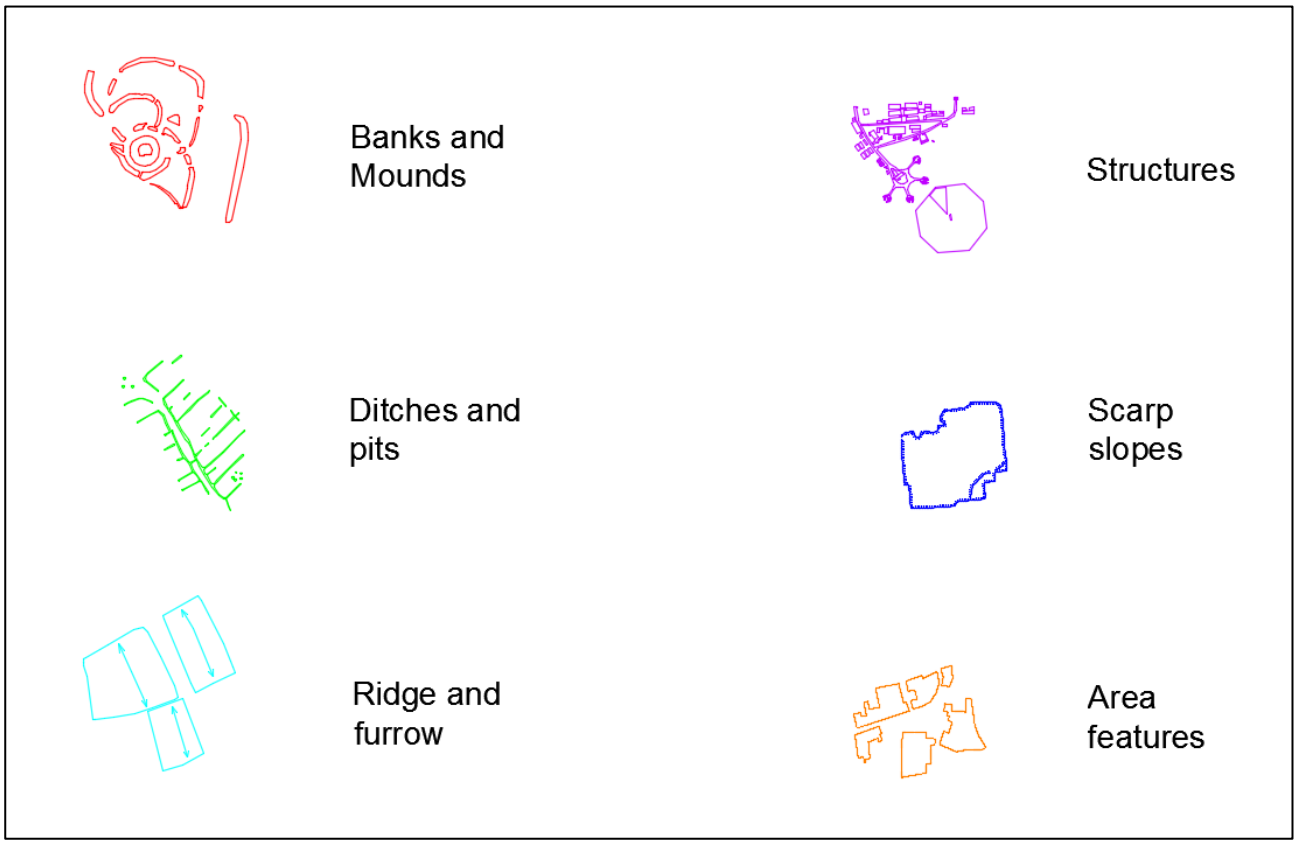

Figure 49: Conventions used for Dorset Stour AI&M mapping.

Appendix 2 – Mapping Results

Overview of the mapping

The project created 2,258 monument records. The general locations of these sites are displayed as dot-data on the distribution map (Fig 50). The map shows that in terms of overall distribution, sites were plotted right across the study area, with a slightly greater concentration across the eastern half of the project area. Larger numbers of sites were recorded on areas of higher ground in contrast to the lower river valleys, which might be the result of slight bias, owing to the higher ground being more likely to be rural and less developed. The highest concentrations on the higher valley slopes and plateaux were associated with later prehistoric/Roman period field systems and settlements.

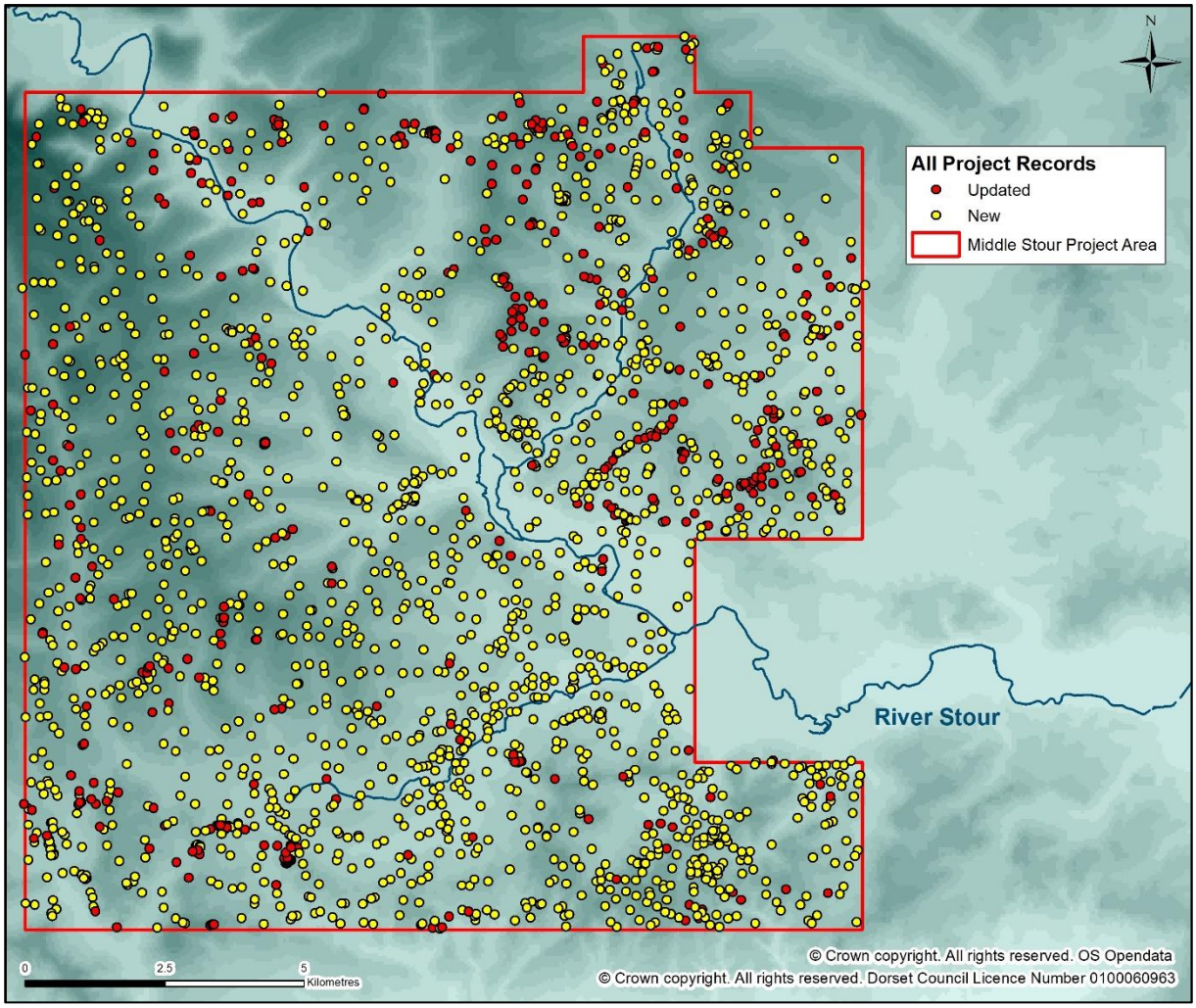

Figure 50: Distribution of all monuments mapped and recorded during the project.

On average the project recorded 10.6 sites for each km^2. Of the 2,258 monuments recorded, 1,827 (80.9%) were for new sites not previously recorded in the Dorset HER, alongside 431 (19.1%) for updated sites in already existing Dorset HER records. 341 sites (15.1%) were previously recorded in the NRHE national database.

Form and survival of sites

The form and survival of each site was recorded in the project's GIS attribute data table. This comprised the form of the site as seen on the earliest available source material, as well as its last known form, as visible on the latest source material. For example, if a site was visible as an earthwork on early 1940s RAF photographs but was visible only as a cropmark on the latest photography (due to being plough-levelled for example), then the site was recorded in the database as an earthwork in its earliest known form (with source reference) and as a cropmark in its last known form (with source reference).

Similarly, if a site was not visible at all (as neither earthworks nor cropmarks) on the latest imagery but had been plotted as an earthwork from early photographs, it would be recorded as earliest known form, Earthwork, latest known form, Levelled Earthwork.

A summary of the latest known form of sites recorded is illustrated in Figure 51 and quantified in Table 2. Of the 2,258 sites recorded during the project the largest numbers were for earthworks (55.28%), followed by cropmarks or soilmarks (26.6%); levelled earthworks made up a small proportion of the total (7.35%), with a further proportion of levelled earthworks also associated with sites partially surviving as cropmarks and/or earthworks (2.24%).

Table 2: Latest known form of sites recorded.

Latest known form	**No: Sites**	**% of total**
Cropmarks or soilmarks	601	26.6%
Cropmarks and earthworks	162	7.18%
Cropmarks and levelled earthworks	7	0.3%
Cropmarks, earthworks and levelled earthworks	8	0.35%
Demolished, ruined or partially demolished structures	22	0.98%
Earthworks	1248	55.28%
Earthworks and levelled earthworks	42	1.86%
Extant structure	2	0.1%
Levelled earthworks	166	7.35%
Total	**2,258**	100%

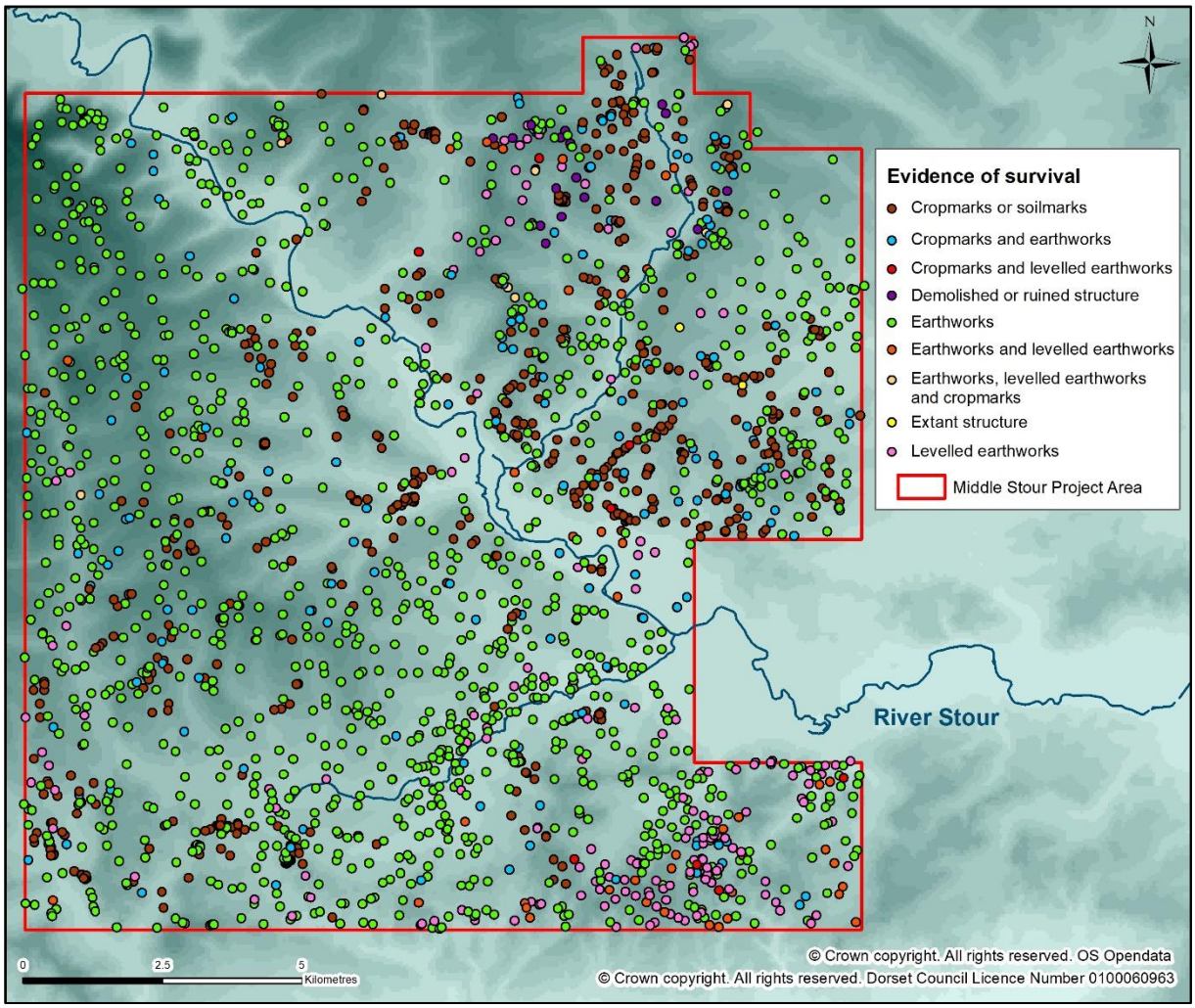

Figure 51: Latest known form of survival of monuments mapped and recorded during the project.

Summary of sites recorded by period

The numbers of sites recorded by period are listed in Table 3. The date ranges used in this report conform to national standards (FISH 2019) and are those used in the HBSMR databases. Archaeological sites were recorded for all periods from the Neolithic to the mid-20th century.

Owing to the nature of aerial photographic evidence, only broad archaeological periods can be assigned to sites unless there is independent dating evidence from fieldwork, artefact scatters or excavation. These have typically, therefore, been ascribed based on the evidence from morphology, context and association with other securely dated sites.

Some generalisations have been made, such as assigning a Bronze Age date to round barrows and ring ditches which were considered to relate to funerary practices, despite

their potential for being of Late Neolithic origin. Also, using Later Prehistoric for field systems which could potentially date anywhere between the later Bronze Age and Roman periods, where closer dating was not possible. This broad approach reflects the indexing of the database entries within the HER. For those sites where there is some uncertainty, or where alternative interpretations are possible (for example, where field systems are considered most likely to be later prehistoric but could potentially be, or contain elements of, medieval or even post-medieval date), the period with the higher confidence has been given precedence. Where confidence is particularly low, the period was ascribed as 'uncertain'. Figures 52 and 53 show the general distributions of sites by broad period across the project area.

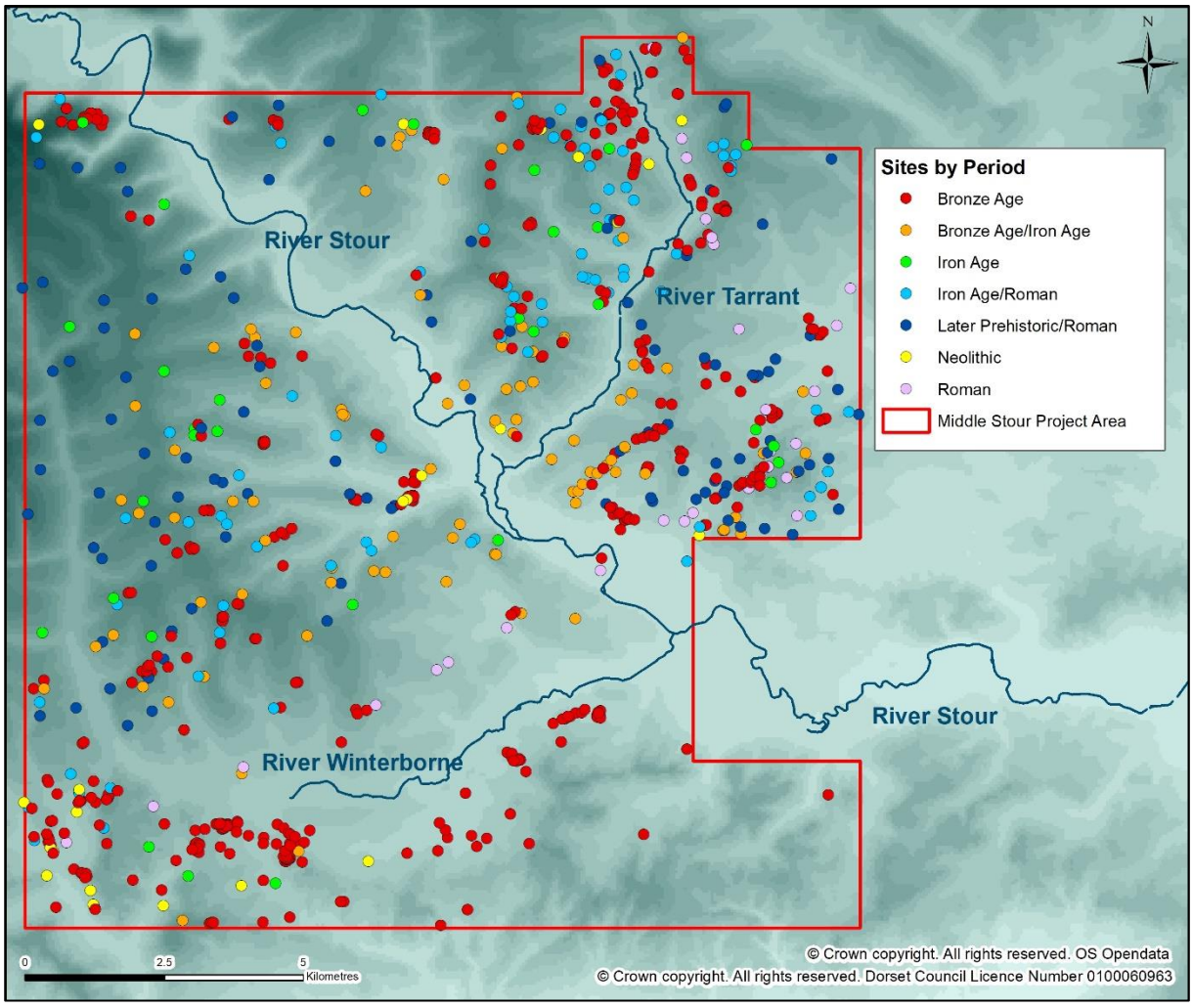

Figure 52: Distribution of all later prehistoric and Roman monuments.

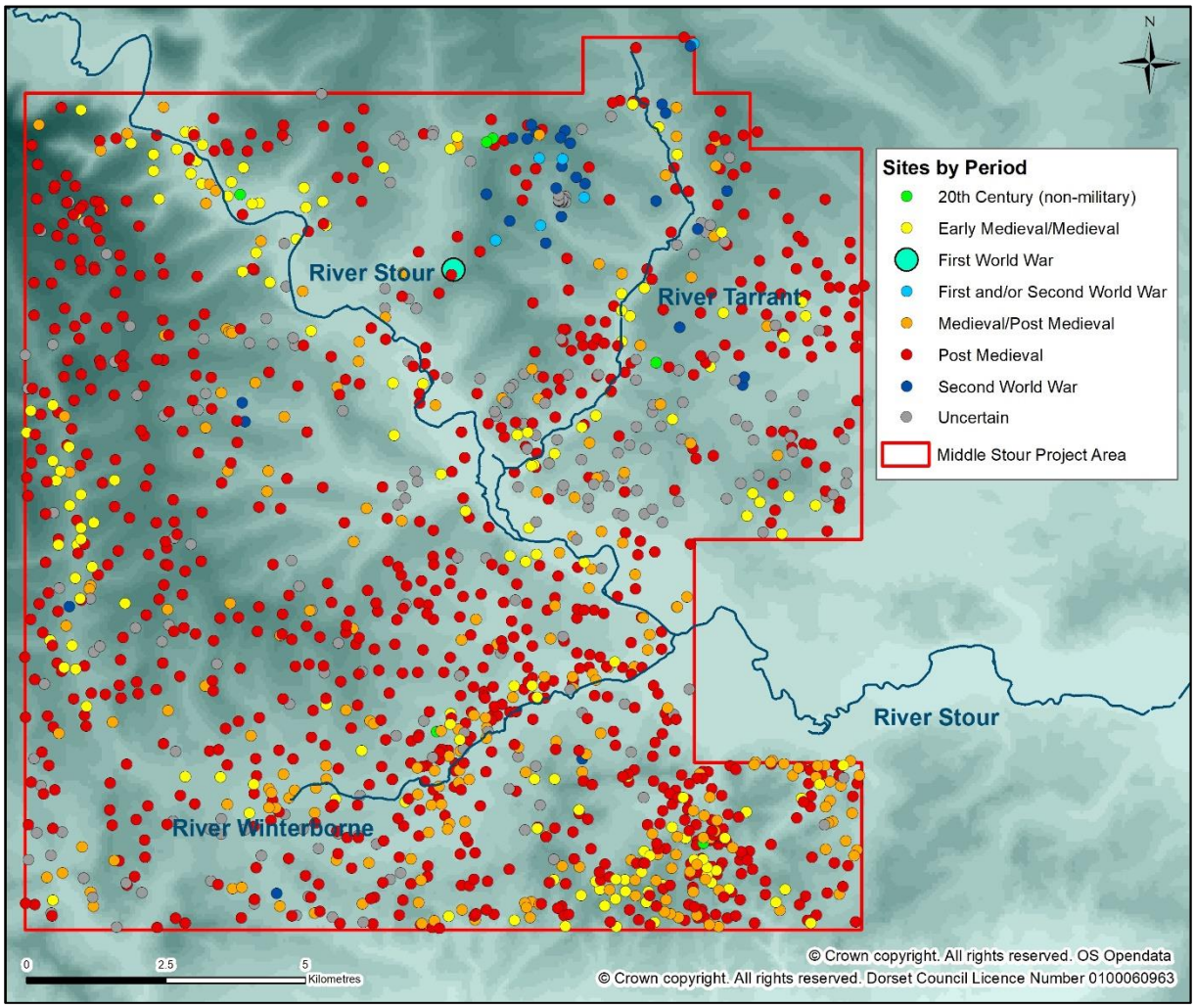

Figure 53: Distribution of all post-Roman and undated monuments.

Six sites have been double indexed as possible Neolithic long barrows or medieval/post-medieval pillow mounds. These have been included in both period summaries in Table 3 below (and in the following period summaries) making the total 2,264.

Table 3: Numbers of sites recorded in the HER databases during the project.

Period	Updated Sites	New Sites	Total
Neolithic	7	17	24
Bronze Age	195	253	448
Bronze Age/Iron Age	15	83	98
Iron Age/Romano-British	55	60	115

Period	Updated Sites	New Sites	Total
Roman	16	14	30
Later Prehistoric/Roman	19	92	111
Early Medieval/Medieval	56	102	158
Historic (Medieval/Post Med)	3	221	224
Post-medieval	43	750	793
20th century	0	7	7
First World War	1	0	1
Second World War	3	26	29
First and/or Second World War	1	5	6
Uncertain	17	203	220
Total	**431**	**1,833**	**2,264**

Mapping results: Neolithic sites (4000BC-2500BC)

Twenty-four monuments were assigned a potential Neolithic date based on morphological characteristics (Table 4). Of these, 17 were new sites not previously recorded in the HER or NRHE including a possible causewayed enclosure (MDO5042), a possible henge or hengiform monument (MDO44831), 10 long barrows and six oval barrows. As Figure 54 shows, the potentially Neolithic sites were not evenly distributed across the project area. A significant group of sites is located in the south-west corner of the project area in the upper reaches of the River Winterborne and the adjacent Bere Stream, tributary of the River Piddle at Bere Regis. Three lie in the vicinity of the confluence of the River Stour and Tarrant; and the remainder in the valley of the River Tarrant and on the high ground to the west of the river.

Table 4: Neolithic Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Causewayed Enclosure (potential)	1
Henge (potential)	1
Long Barrow	13
Oval Barrow	8
Pit Circle	1
Total	24

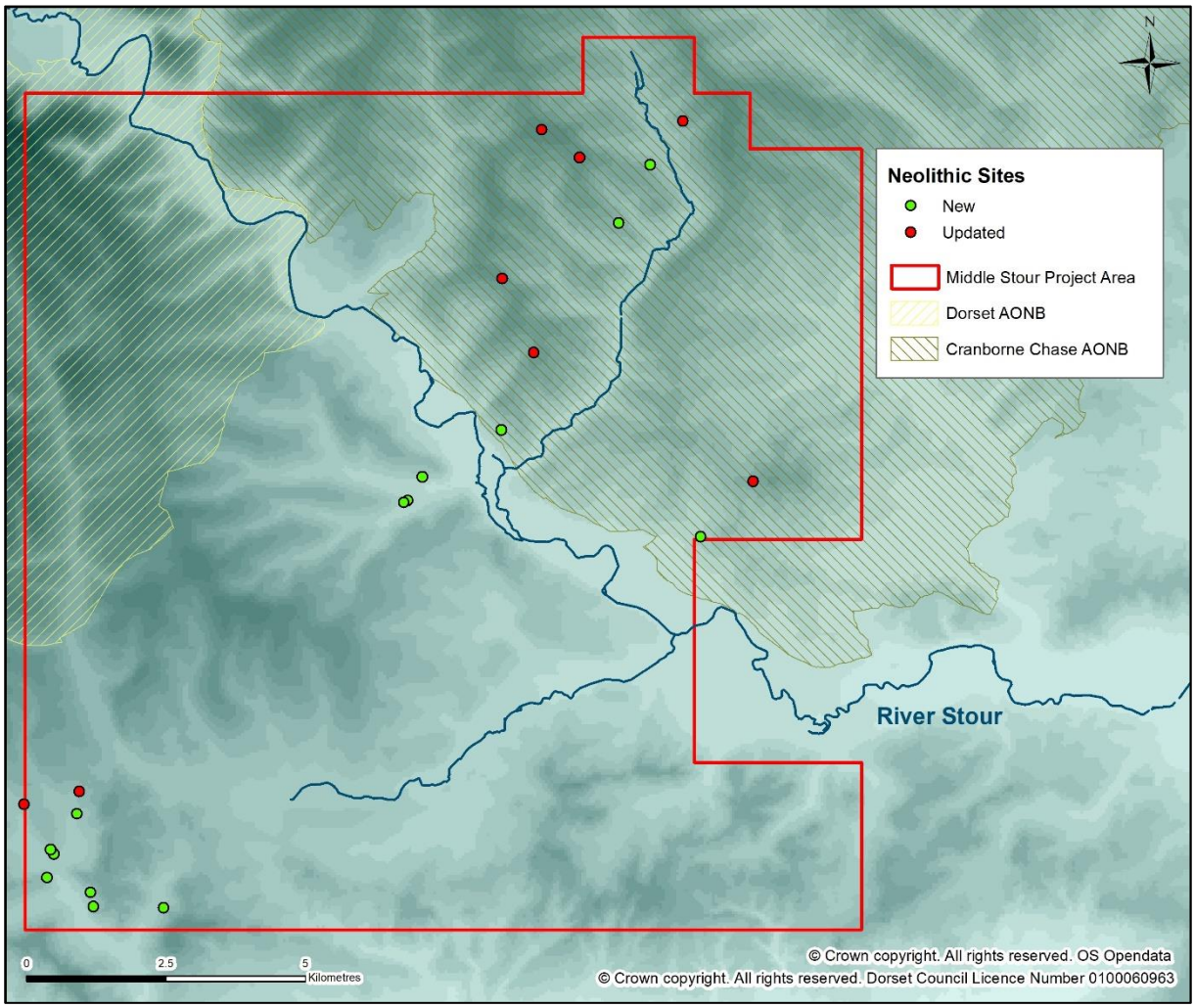

Figure 54: Distribution of Neolithic monuments.

Mapping results: Bronze Age sites (2500BC-800BC)

All bar two of the Bronze Age sites were funerary monuments with 446 ring ditches and round mounds interpreted as Bronze Age round barrows (Table 5). The other two sites were a possible pit alignment at Tarrant Launceston (MDO44551) and a section of ditch excavated in 1989 at Shapwick when Bronze Age pottery was recovered (MDO6045). Of the Bronze Age sites, the majority (253) were new sites identified and recorded in the HER for the first time during the mapping project, including a potential pit alignment (MDO44551). Around half (52%) have been completely levelled and are visible only as cropmarks. The distribution map shows that the sites are generally located on the higher ground above the main river valleys. There are larger clusters to the north in the vicinity of Blandford Camp, Tarrant Launceston and Tarrant Monkton; and in the southwest, to the south of the River Winterborne, at Winterborne Kingston and Bloxworth Down.

Table 5: Bronze Age Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Bell Barrow	2
Bowl Barrow	135
Field Boundary	1
Pit Alignment	1
Pond Barrow	2
Round Barrow	307
Total	448

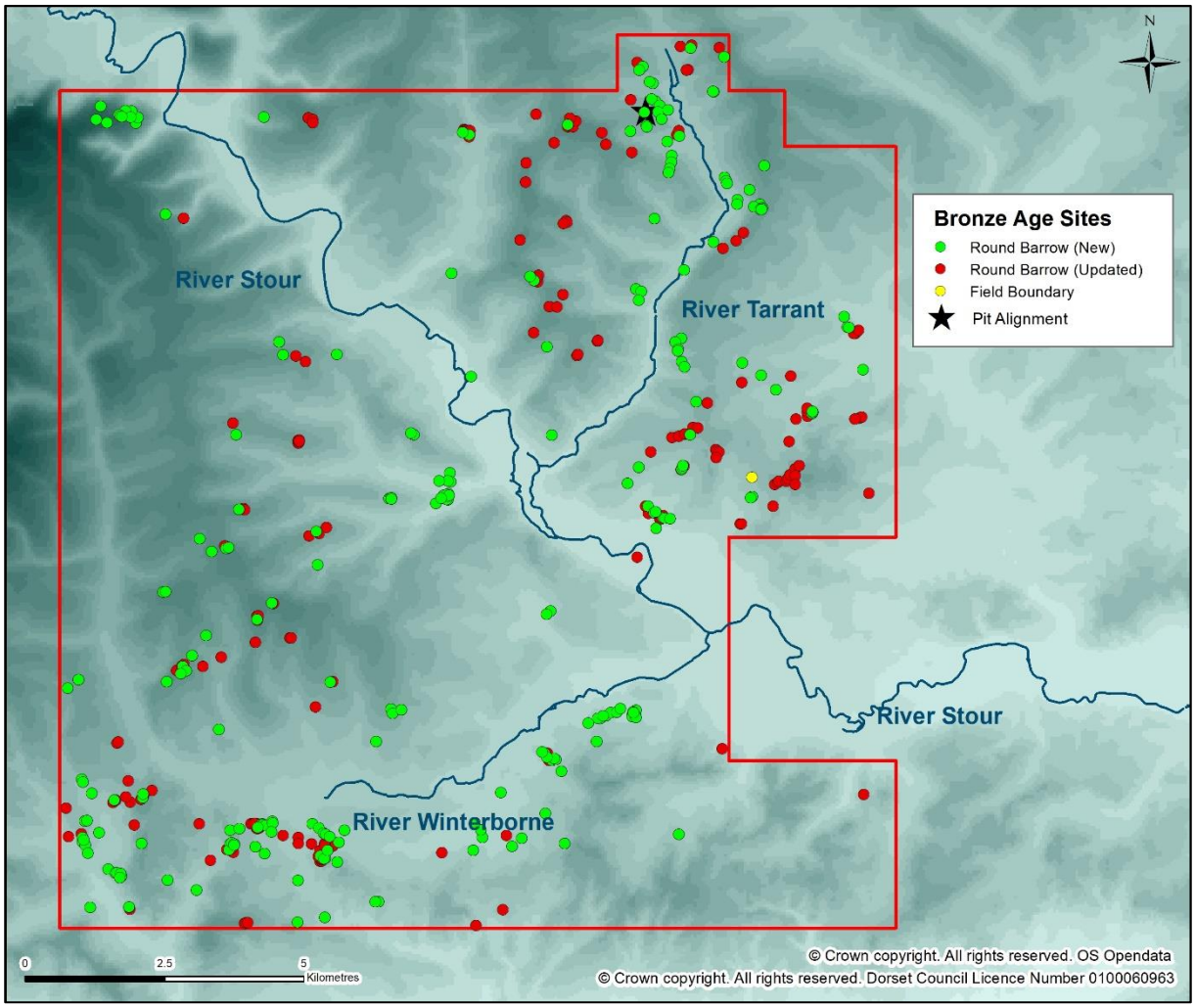

Figure 55: Distribution of Bronze Age Monuments.

Mapping results: Bronze Age/Iron Age (2500BC-AD 43)

Ninety-eight sites have been interpreted as of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. These have been differentiated from the broader Later Prehistoric or Roman sites described below as they were either for features generally attributed to the pre-Roman period, but which spanned both the Bronze Age Iron Ages (such as long linear land boundaries; ring ditches, and curvilinear enclosed settlements) or field systems and trackways considered likely to predate the Roman period due to morphology or context. Of the 98 sites, 15 were previously recorded in the Dorset HER and 83 (85%) were new. As the distribution map (Fig 56) shows, the majority of sites dating to this Bronze Age/Iron Age period are located in the central portion of the project area. Few sites are located to the south of the River Winterborne and the River Stour east of its confluence with the River Winterborne.

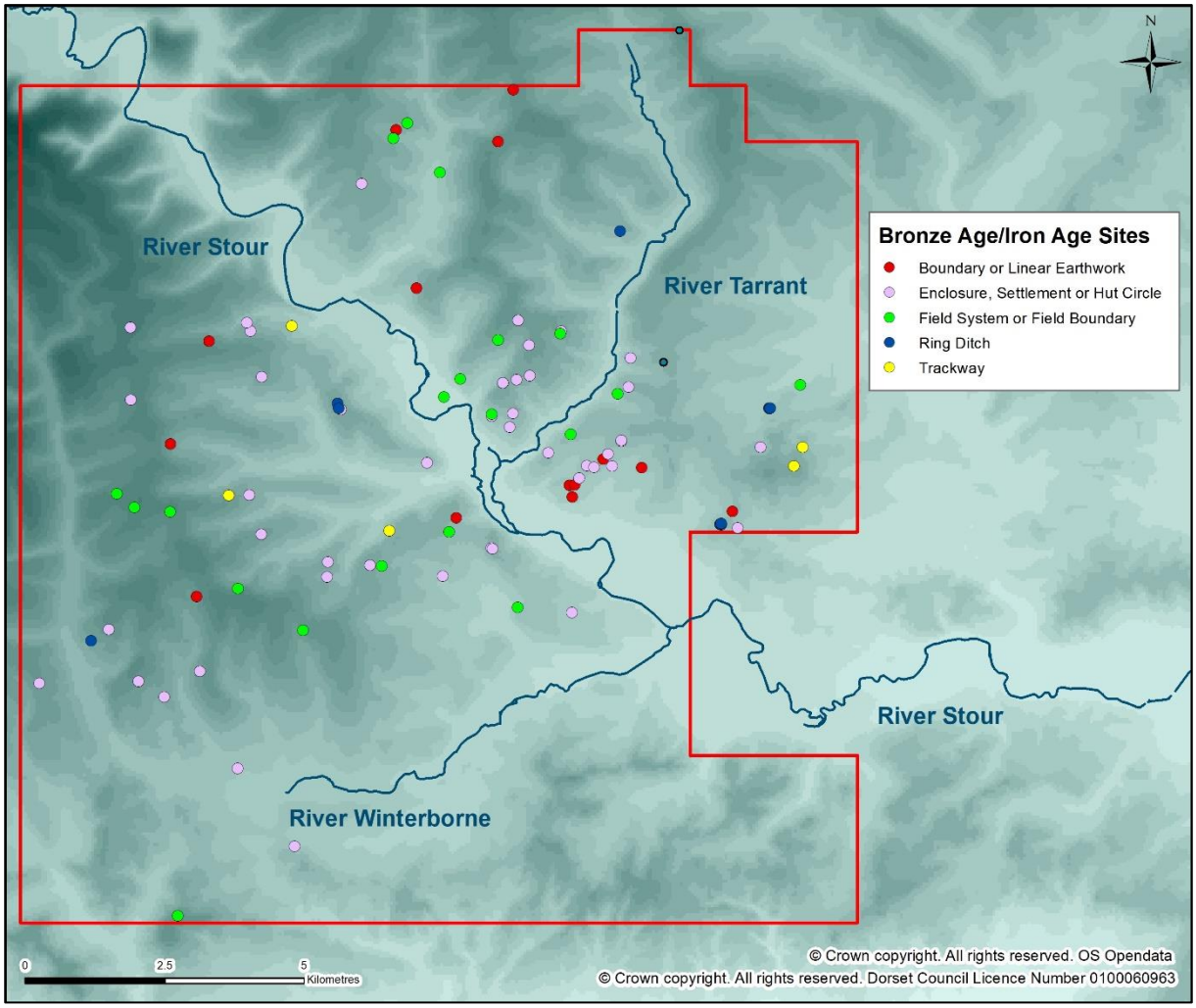

Figure 56: Distribution of Bronze Age/Iron Age sites.

Table 6: Bronze Age/Iron Age Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary/Boundary Bank/Boundary Ditch	10
Enclosure/Enclosed Settlement	45
Field Boundary/Field System	20
Ring Ditch (Hut Circle/Round Barrow)	13
Linear Earthwork	5
Trackway	5
Total	98

Mapping results: Iron Age and Iron Age/Romano-British sites (800BC-AD 410)

One hundred and fifteen sites of Iron Age or Iron Age/Romano-British date were mapped and recorded during the project (Table 7). Of these, 60 (52%) were new sites, previously unrecorded in the HER; although it is probable that more than this were identified and mapped but given a more general ‘Later Prehistoric/Roman’ date. As the distribution map (Fig 57) shows, sites on the valley floors are rare. The largest concentration of sites dating to this period are located between the Rivers Stour and Tarrant in the vicinity of Buzbury Rings (MDO5018). A smaller group of sites are located at Badbury Rings (MDO5994), and the remainder are scattered across on the higher ground to the west of the project area.

Table 7: Iron Age/Romano-British Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Banjo Enclosure	1
Cross Dyke/ Dyke (Defence)	14
Enclosure	36
Enclosed Settlement/Settlement	19
Field Boundary/Field System	27
Hillfort	3
Linear Earthwork/Boundary	8
Trackway	7
Total	115

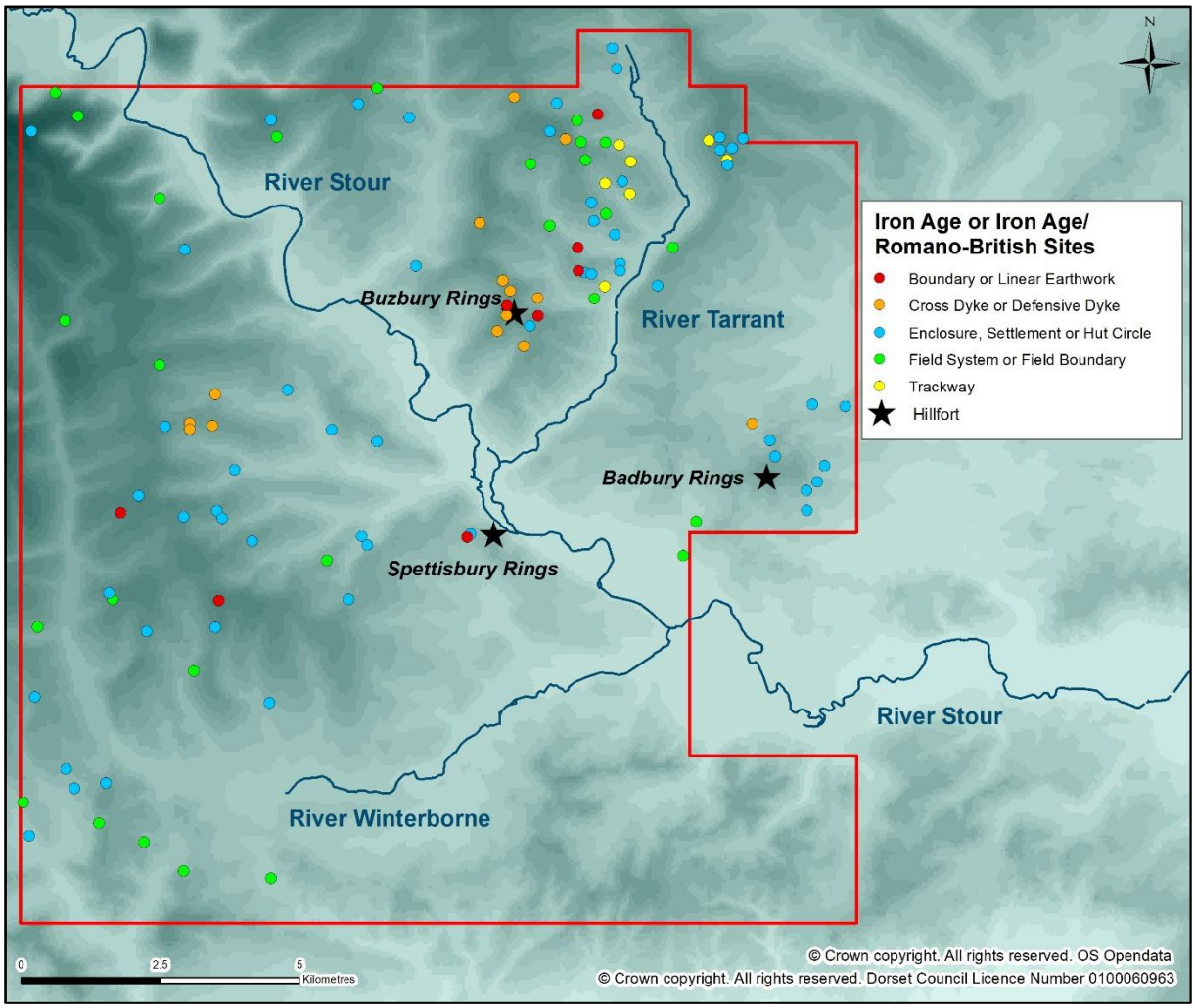

Figure 57: Distribution of Iron Age/Iron Age-Romano-British sites.

Mapping Results: Later Prehistoric or Romano-British sites (2200BC-410AD)

It was not possible to attribute a specific period to 111 sites considered to be of Roman or earlier date (Table 8). These were differentiated from the Bronze Age/Iron Age sites described above, either by being enclosures of a more rectilinear rather than curvilinear morphology (so less likely to be Bronze Age), or by being site types such as field systems and trackways that are common and with similar morphologies across the later prehistoric and Roman periods. Of the 111 sites, 92 (83%) were new to the record.

The pattern of distribution of later prehistoric sites is largely similar to that of the Iron Age/Iron Age-Romano-British sites; that is to say generally in the northern portion of the project area (Fig 58). A group to the east of the River Tarrant may be associated with Badbury Rings and the remainder are scattered across on the higher ground to the west.

The majority (68%) of sites attributed to this wider period are field boundaries and field systems, whereas enclosures and enclosed settlements were commonly given a more specific Iron Age/Iron Age-Romano-British date. These two period summaries and their accompanying distribution maps are in many ways likely to reflect the uncertainties of the interpreter at the time of recording (that is to say, less likely to attribute a firm date to a field system, rather than an enclosure based only on morphological characteristics) and when used in tandem paint a more complete picture of the extent of human activity in the area in the later prehistoric period.

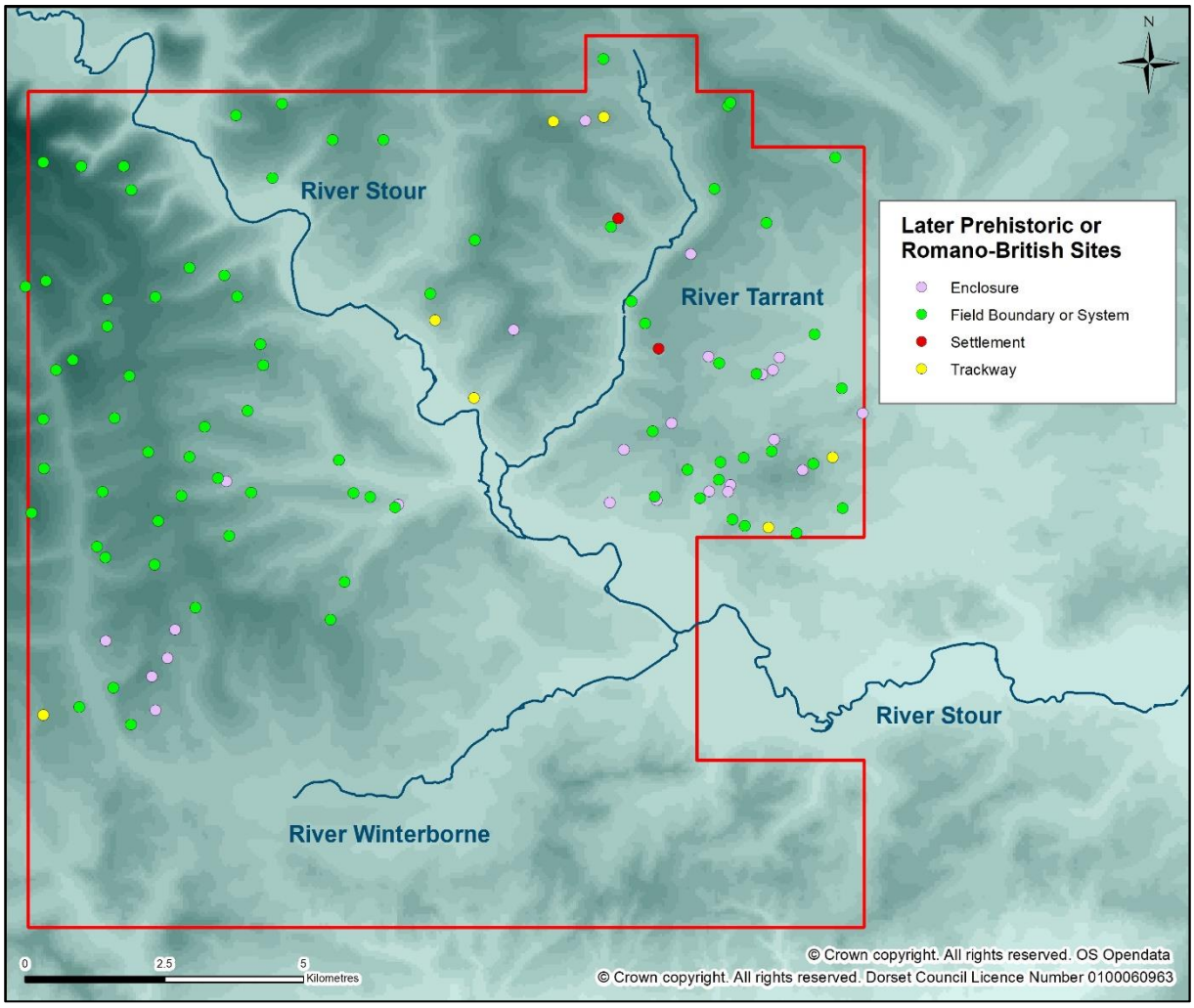

Figure 58: Distribution of Later Prehistoric or Romano-British sites.

Table 8: Later Prehistoric or Romano-British Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Enclosure	26
Field Boundary/Field System	75
Settlement	2
Trackway	8
Total	**111**

Mapping Results: Roman sites (43-410AD)

Many of the features representing human activity during the Roman period were those whose form suggested a more native (that is to say, Romano-British) character, with a longevity of use, for example field systems and trackways that would typically have seen use from the Iron Age into the Roman period. As a result, only 30 sites within the project area have been attributed a specifically Roman date, based on their morphological character (and supported by material evidence if known) (Table 9). Of these sites, 26 (87%) were for sections of the four Roman roads known to pass through the project area converging on the Iron Age hillfort of Badbury Rings (Fig 59).

Other sites include two settlements on the Roman road from Badbury to Dorchester, one a vicus (MDO6050) associated with a Roman fort (MDO6031). The final site was an extractive pit, possibly associated with the construction of the Roman road (MDO035).

Table 9: Roman Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Chalk Pit	1
Fort	1
Settlement	1
Vicus	1
Road	26
Total	**30**

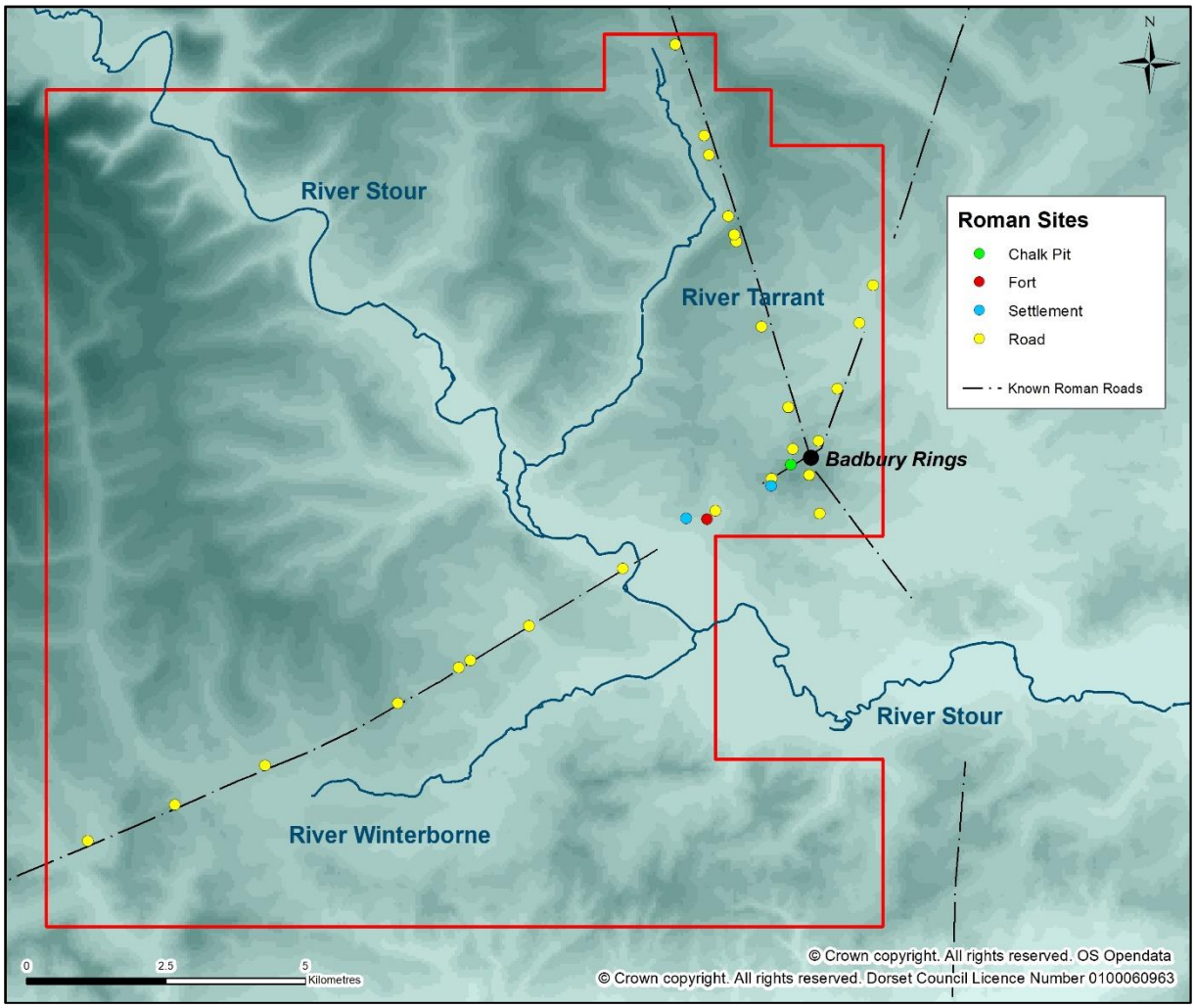

Figure 59: Distribution of Roman sites.

Mapping results: medieval sites (410-1540AD)

One hundred and fifty-eight monuments identified during the project were assigned to the medieval period; of these, 102 (65%) were new sites (Table 10). The greatest numbers of sites (74%) are still visible or partially visible as upstanding earthworks.

Table 10: Medieval Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Abbey	1
Deer Park	3

Site Type	No: Sites
Drove Road/Hollow way	2
Field Boundary/Field System/Lynchet/Strip Field	59
Fishpond	1
Moat	2
Parish Boundary	1
Pillow Mound	2
Ridge and Furrow	63
Settlement	24
Total	**158**

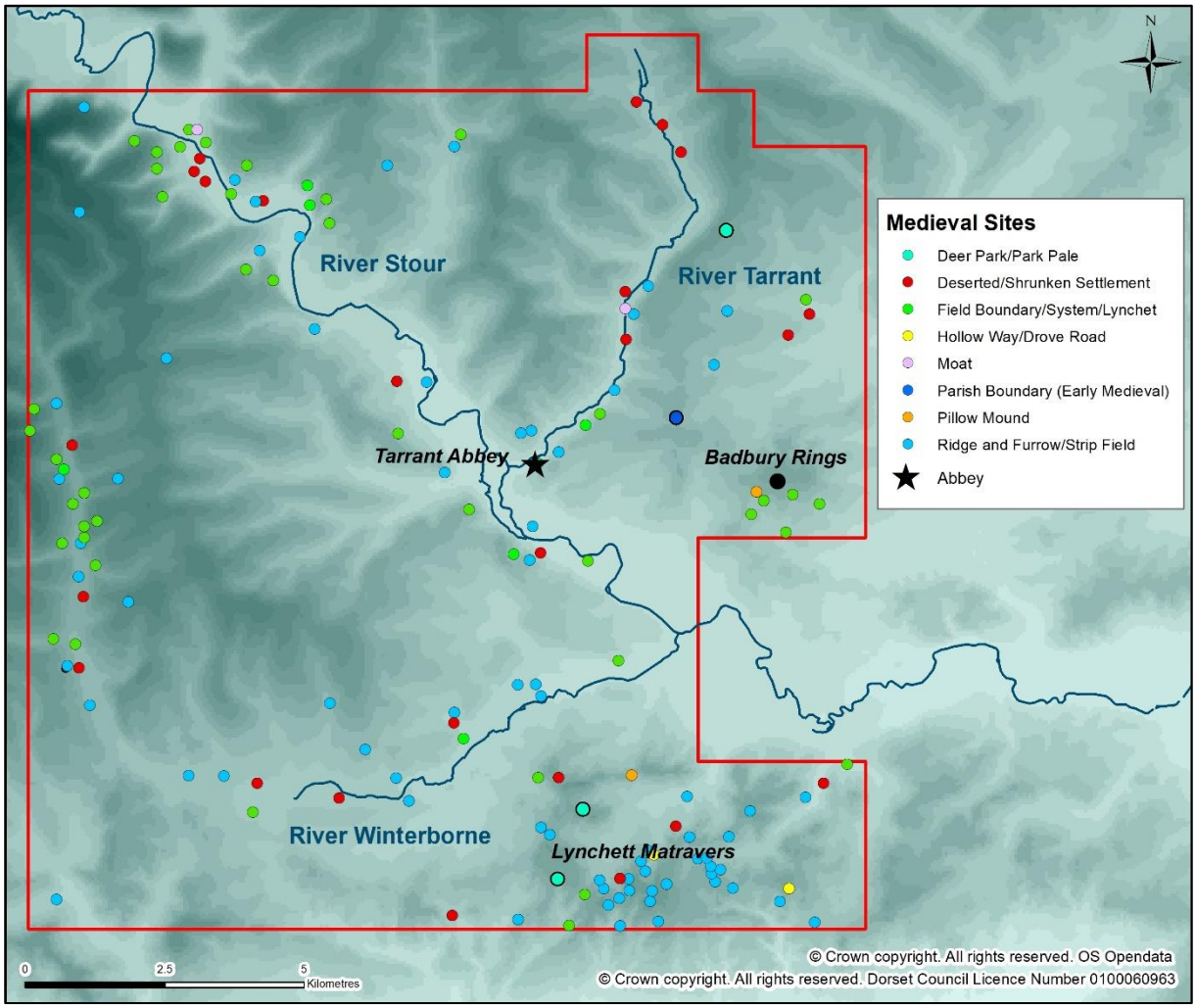

Figure 60: Distribution of medieval sites.

In terms of distribution (Fig 60), the majority of sites are located on or near the valley floors of the Rivers Stour, Tarrant and Winterbourne. A large scatter of sites is also located on the higher ground within the parish of Lynchett Matravers in the southeast portion of the project area; and a smaller group to the south of Badbury Rings. The results are spread across a variety of site types but might in general be described as relating to settlement and agriculture. The vast majority of the newly recorded sites were for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation marks, field boundaries and field systems.

Mapping results: post-medieval sites (AD1540-AD1900)

During the mapping project 35% (793) of sites identified were attributed a post-medieval date (Table 11) (Fig 61). Of these monuments, 686 (86.5%) survive as extant or partially extant earthworks.

The largest numbers of site type attributed to the post-medieval period are related to the extraction of chalk, clay, sand and gravel (83%). These include larger scale extraction associated with the brick and lime industries. Much of the project area is underlain by chalk and many of the smaller the pits may relate to farms and local communities extracting chalk and limestone for use as a soil improver and for the manufacture of lime for the local building industry. The next largest group of site types dating to this period were those relating in agriculture including boundaries, drainage features and cultivation marks; these totalled 79 sites (10%).

The vast majority (95%) of all the post-medieval sites mapped by the project were for new sites not previously recorded in the Dorset HER.

Table 11: Post-medieval Site Types.

Site Type	**No: Sites**
Butts/Firing Range	2
Brickworks/Lime Kiln	9
Chapel	1
Cockpit	1
Cultivation Marks/Narrow Ridge and Furrow	6
Drainage Ditch/Drainage System/Leat	22
Extractive Pit /Quarry (inc. chalk, clay, gravel, sand)	657
Farmstead	1
Field Boundary/Field System	40

Site Type	No: Sites
Footpath/Road/Trackway	26
Landscape Feature (inc. artificial mound, avenue, tree	9
Pond (inc. dewpond decoy pond)	3
Racecourse	1
Saw Pit	1
Shutter Telegraph Station	1
Water Meadow	11
Windmill Mound	1
Total	**793**

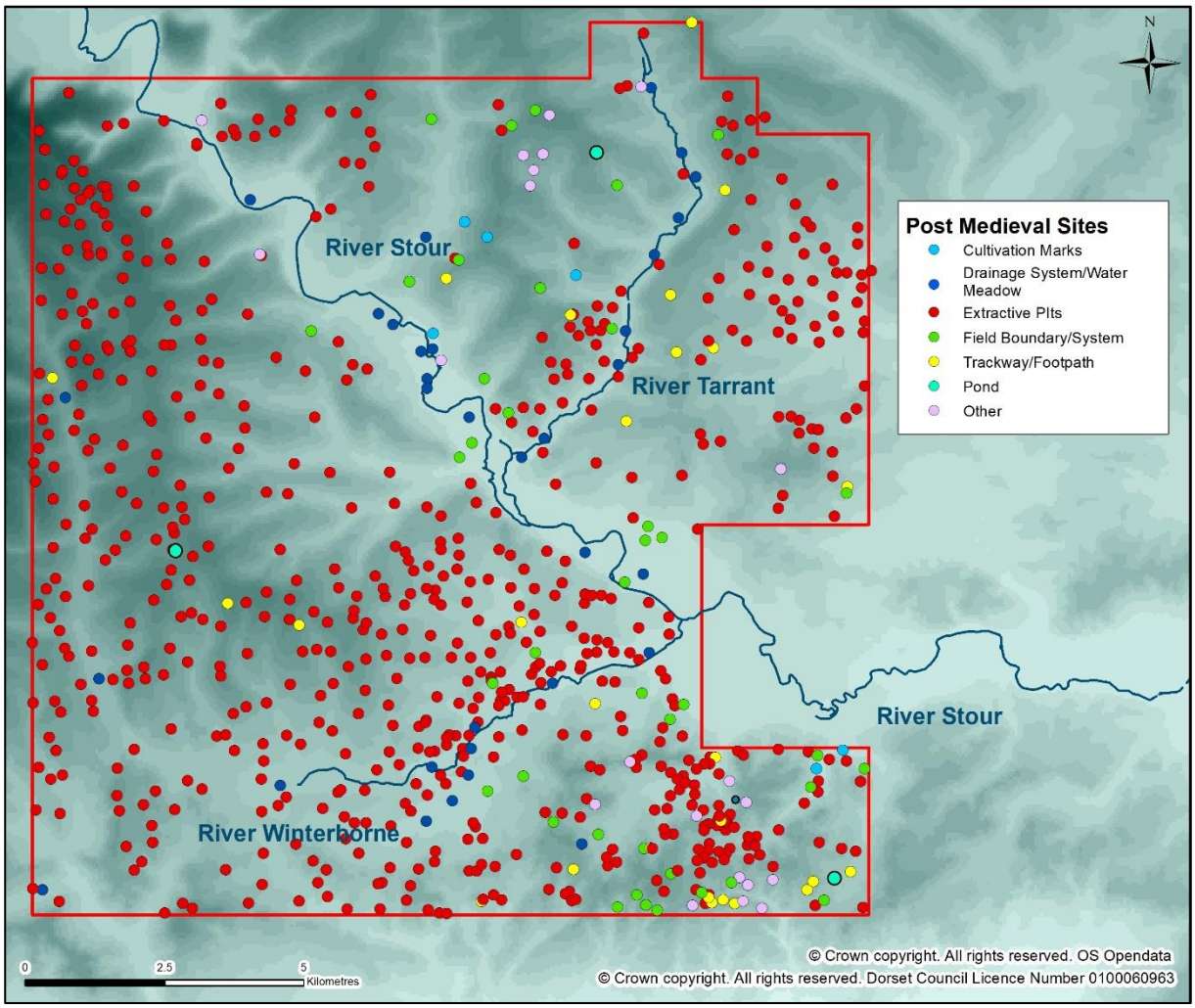

Figure 61: Distribution of post-medieval sites.

Mapping results: medieval/post-medieval sites (AD410-AD1900)

The nature of the evidence from aerial photographic and lidar surveys means that there are certain categories of site, mainly relating to agricultural, which could have been medieval or post-medieval in date (Fig 62). For example, agricultural features such as field boundaries, wood banks, trackways and extractive pits with similar morphological characteristics across these two periods. Other specific site types such as pillow mounds may date to either the late medieval or post-medieval periods; for the purposes of this summary, these sites have been given a double indexed date. Of these monuments, 150 (67%) survive as extant or partially extant earthworks.

All but three sites given a broad medieval or post-medieval date range were for new sites not previously recorded in the Dorset HER.

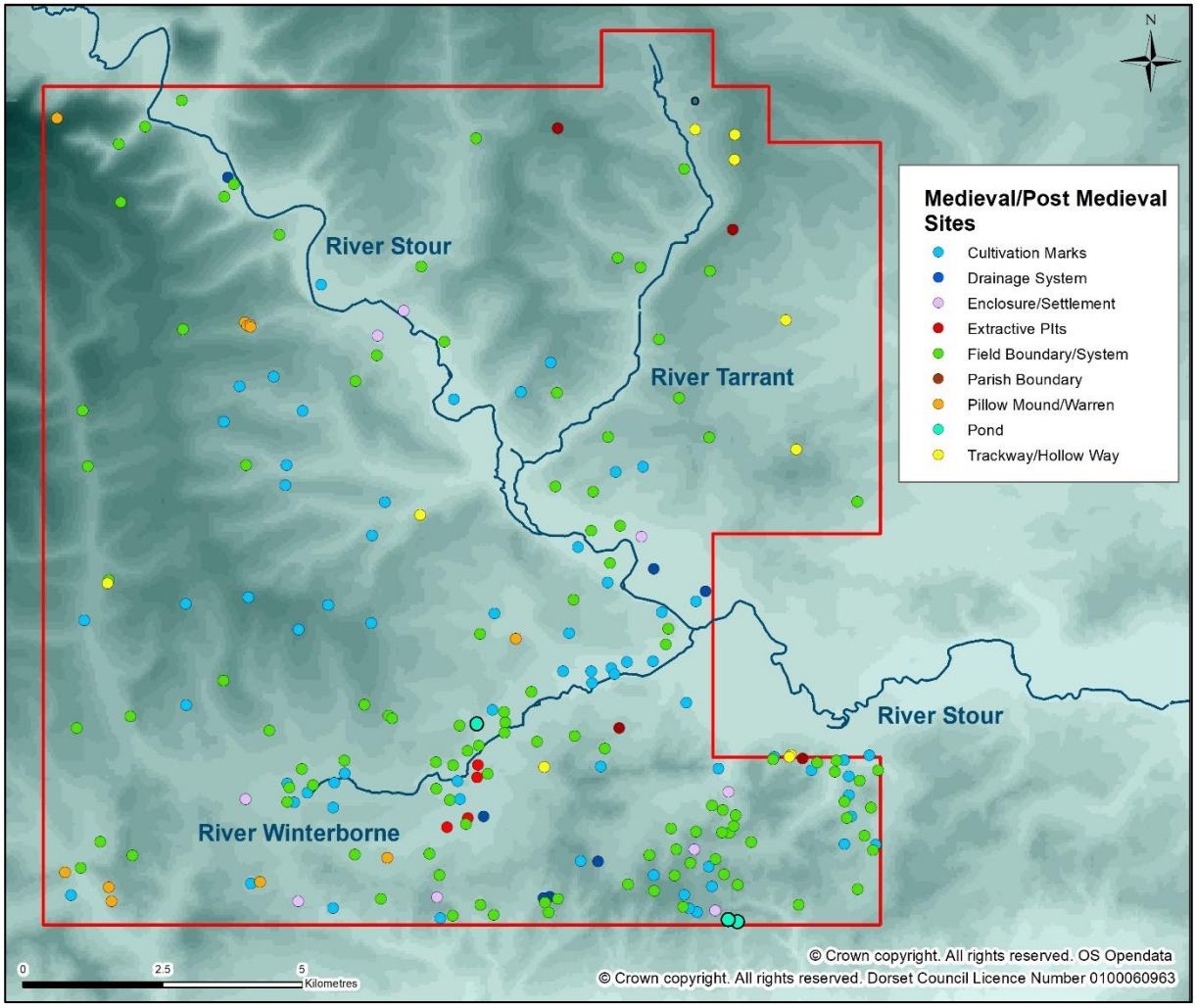

Figure 62: Distribution of medieval or post-medieval sites.

Table 12: medieval/post-medieval Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Cultivation Marks/Ridge and Furrow	65
Drainage Ditch/Drainage System	7
Enclosure/Pound	4
Extractive Pit	4
Field Boundary/Field System	110
Hollow Way/Trackway	11
Parish Boundary	4
Pillow Mound/Rabbit Warren	11
Pond	3
Settlement/Deserted Settlement	5
Total	**224**

Mapping results: Early to mid-20th century sites (1901-1966)

All early 20th-century sites predating the end of the Second World War (1945) were mapped and recorded during the project including military features relating to the War itself (Fig 63). Features post-dating 1945 were not generally plotted unless they were abandoned military features associated with the Cold War. Structures that are still in use or preserved in later structures that are still in use were not mapped, this included extant field boundaries, roofed buildings, canals, railways and 20th-century drainage features. Of the total 43 sites identified during the project dating to this period, 38 (88%) had not previously been recorded in the Dorset HER.

As the distribution map (Fig 63) shows, the majority of sites dating to this period are located in the northern portion of the project area. The main cluster is associated with the site of Blandford Camp which was used during the first and second world wars and continues in military use today, being the home of the Royal Signals. RAF Tarrant Rushton is a Second World War miliary airfield located to the southeast of Blandford camp, east of the River Tarrant. Some of the military sites within the valley of the Tarrant were ancillary to the camp and airfield, including auxiliary camps, a searchlight battery, a radio telegraphy station, and two radar beacons or High Frequency Direction Finding (HF/DF) stations. A number of smaller military camps are scattered across the rest of the project area.

Of the 43 sites attributed to the early to mid-20th century, only 5 (11.5%), were previously recorded in the Dorset HER prior to the project and 31 (72%) have been completely demolished or levelled.

Table 13: Early to mid-20th century Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Non-military sites	
Building	1
Chalk Pit/Extractive Pit/Quarry	4
Orchard	1
Trackway	1
First World War Military Sites	
Tramway	1
First and/or Second War Military Sites	
Barbed Wire Entanglement	1
Military Camp	1
Practice Trench/Slit Trench	2
Prisoner of War Camp	1
Training Area	1
Second World War Military Sites	
Anti-aircraft Battery	3
Barbed Wire Entanglement	7
Bombing Range Marker	1
Building	1
Firing Range	4
Military Camp	6
Military Training Site	1
Radar Beacon	2
Radio Telegraphy Station	1
Searchlight Battery	1
Slit Trench	1
Military Airfield	1
Total	**43**

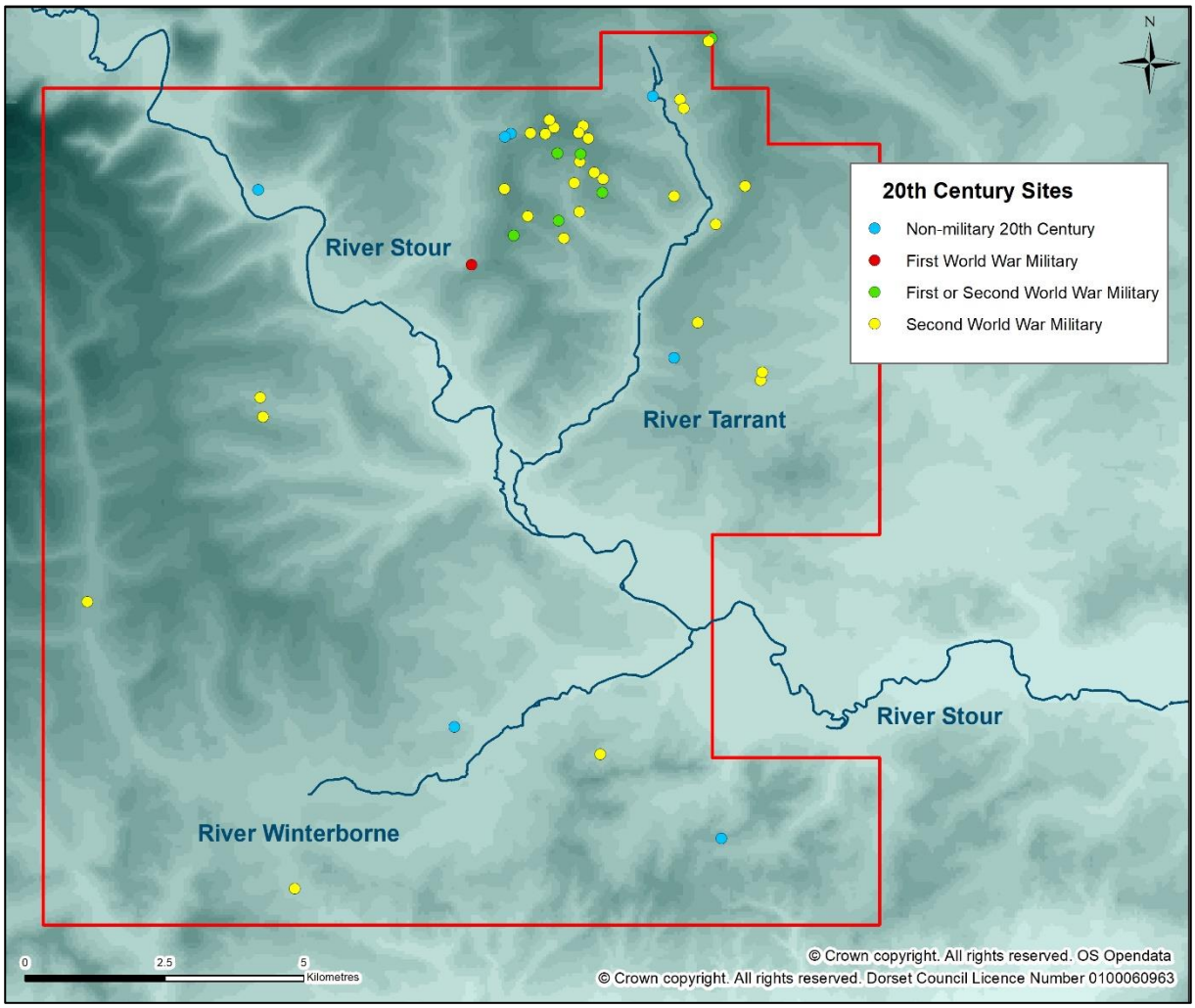

Figure 63: Distribution of late 19th and/or early 20th century sites.

Mapping results: Undated sites

It was not possible to assign a specific date to 220 sites recorded during the mapping project. These are sites to which a more specific prehistoric or historic date could not be assigned with confidence (Table 14). They include sites of ambiguous function such as mounds as well as site types that could date to any period such as field boundaries and field systems, trackways and enclosures (Fig 64). Many of these sites could well be of later prehistoric origin. Of the total number of sites, the majority (92%) were new to the Dorset HER.

Table 14: Undated Site Types.

Site Type	No: Sites
Boundary Bank/Boundary Ditch	10
Chalk Pit/Pit	9
Enclosure	23
Field Boundary/Strip Lynchet	112
Hollow way	1
Mound	10
Ring Bank/Ring Ditch	16
Road/Trackway	39
Total	**220**

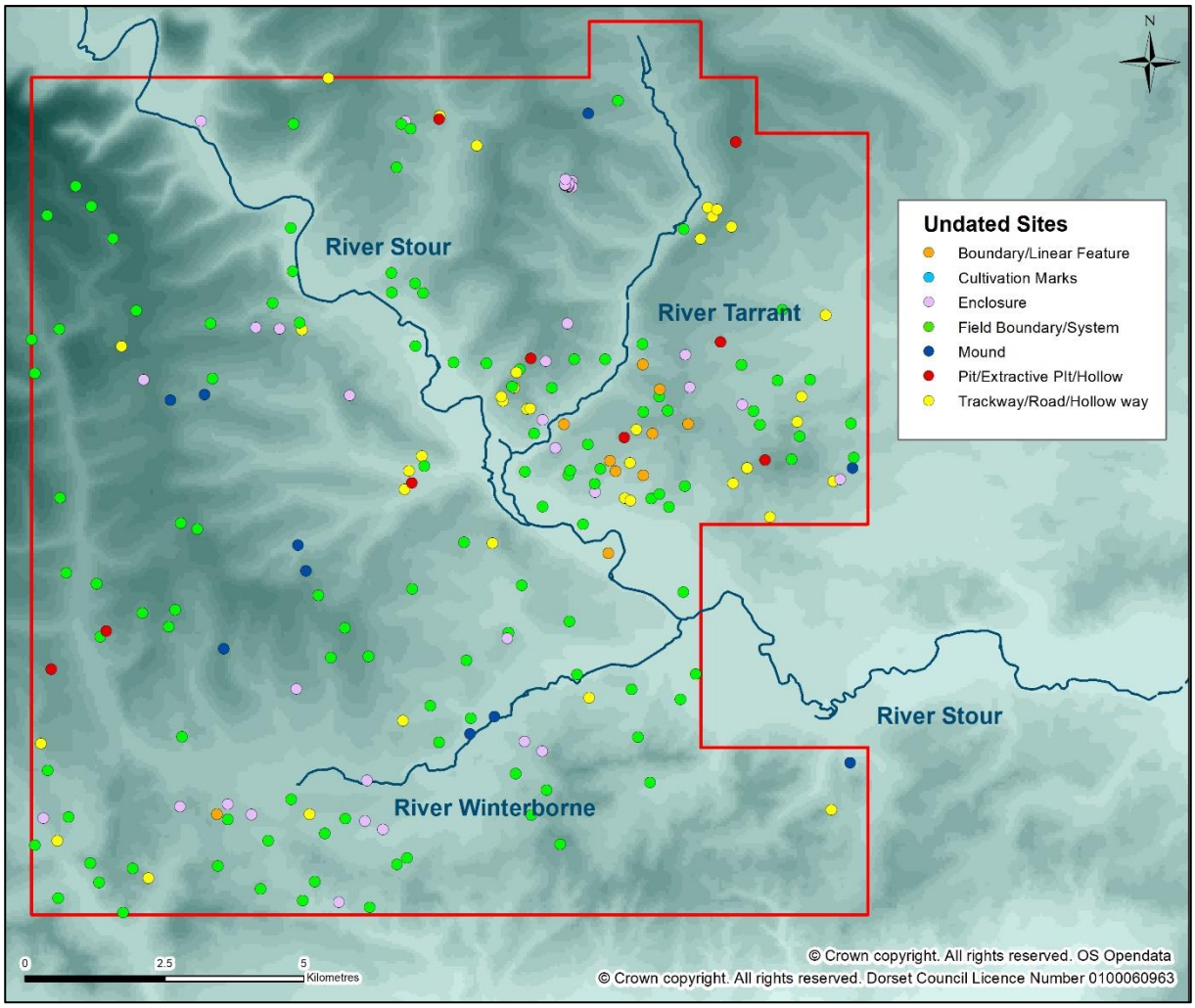

Figure 64: Distribution of undated sites.

Appendix 3: List of Significant Sites

List of sites that would benefit from further work – recommendations to include what kind of work – for example, analytical earthwork survey, doc research, excavation, geophysics, more aerial work etc.

Description	**Place**	**HER and/or NRHE Monument No.**	**NGR**	**Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work**
Later prehistoric/Roman field system, Norton Wood	Norton Wood, Durweston, Dorset	MDO44693; MDO44691	ST 84894 08791	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance and potential for scheduling.
Later prehistoric/Roman field system and possible Bronze Age barrow, Little Down	Little Down, Blandford St Mary, Dorset	MDO3588; MDO45880	ST 85900 04533	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance and potential for scheduling.
Later prehistoric/Roman field system, Shillingstone Hill	Shillingstone Hill, Shillingstone, Dorset	MDO4682; MDOs 44642-6; MDOs 44612-6	ST 84120 09471	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance and potential for scheduling.

Description	Place	HER and/or NRHE Monument No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Possible medieval wood bank/ deer park, High Wood, Lytchett Matravers	High Wood, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset	MDO47143	SY 92933 97145	Field visit/earthwork survey/assess significance and potential for scheduling.
Roman fort and vicus at Crab Farm, Shapwick	Crab Farm, Shapwick, Dorset	MDO6031; MDO6050 NRHE 958209;1468767; 1403299;1066560	ST 94602 02362	Field visit, further geophysical survey/excavation to assess survival, dating and relationships, significance and potential for further Scheduling.
Deserted medieval settlement, Lytchett Matravers	Lytchett Matravers, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset	MDO7774; MDO7775 NRHE 457347	SY 93519 95950	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess form, survival and significance of the settlement earthworks, hollow ways/trackways, ridge and furrow and possible fishponds. The site potentially extends across several fields and links into existing lanes and extant boundaries.

Description	Place	HER and/or NRHE Monument No.	NGR	Assessment of significance/reason for further work/nature of further work
Deserted medieval settlement, Lytchett Matravers	Lytchett Matravers, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset	MDO7776 NRHE 457322	SY 94637 96964	Field visit/earthwork survey/geophysical survey to assess form, survival and significance of the settlement earthworks, hollow ways/trackways, ridge and furrow. The site potentially extends across several fields and links into existing lanes and extant boundaries.
Enclosure east of Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston	Launceston Farm, Tarrant Launceston, Dorset	MDO5042 NRHE 209410	ST 94809 09507	Field visit/ geophysical survey to assess form, survival and potential significance, as well as potential for Scheduling, if a Causewayed Enclosure is confirmed.
Hengiform or Pit Circle Monument, southeast of Manor Farm, Pimperne.	Manor Farm, Pimperne, Dorset	MDO37382	ST 89801 09437	Field visit/ geophysical survey to assess form, survival and potential significance, as well as potential for Scheduling, if a Neolithic pit circle or hengiform monument is confirmed.

Appendix 3: Designations Long List

List of scheduled monuments in the area where the survey could improve the location, extent, interpretation. This will also include any new sites of potential regional or national importance that might merit designation.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Deserted medieval settlement at West Farm	Lower Whitechurch Farm (formerly West Farm), Winterborne Whitechurch, Dorset	1002378	SY 83933 99577	Consider extending Scheduled area to the south and possibly north. Earthworks associated with the settlement are visible on lidar imagery.
Bowl barrow 590m northeast of Bere Down Farm/ Bowl barrow 500m south of West Down Barn	Bere Down Farm, Bere Regis, Dorset and Elderton Clump, Winterborne Kingston, Dorset	1015378 1020986	SY 84461 97307 SY 84642 97463	Review Scheduling of these two barrows to include three additional barrows visible on lidar imagery, forming a possible linear barrow cemetery.
Field System in Old Park	Old Park, Bryanston, Dorset	1002427	ST 86514 06708	Assess Scheduled area to consider extension based on earthworks visible on lidar imagery, particularly to west and southwest, and to include settlement MDO3628 to the northwest.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Roman Fort at Crab Farm	Crab Farm, Shapwick, Dorset	1002372	ST 94823 02325	Ground survey to assess and consider extending Scheduled area to include the remains of the Roman vicus to the west and southwest.
Enclosure S of Pimperne Down	Pimperne Down, Pimperne, Dorset	1002860	ST 89088 09744	Consider extending Scheduled area to south, further features visible as cropmarks.
Later prehistoric/Roman field system, Shillingstone Hill	Shillingstone Hill, Shillingstone, Dorset		ST 84120 09471	Assess and consider for Scheduling. Extensive earthworks visible on lidar imagery and might include several Bronze Age barrows.
Later prehistoric/Roman field system, Norton Wood	Norton Wood, Durweston, Dorset		ST 84894 08791	Assess and consider for Scheduling. Extensive earthworks visible on lidar imagery, particularly within Norton and Sutcombe Woods.
Later prehistoric/Roman field system, Little Down	Little Down, Blandford St Mary, Dorset		ST 85900 04533	Assess and consider for Scheduling. Earthworks visible on lidar imagery and some cropmarks and might include a Bronze Age barrow.

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
Two bowl barrows 760m northeast of Miller's Farm/ Two bowl barrows 800m northeast of Miller's Farm	Miller's Farm, Furze Hill, Morden, Dorset	1016283 1016282	SY 91773 98016 SY 91725 98126	The Scheduled area for 1016282 appears incorrect, orientated SW-NE instead of NW-SE. There are several other barrows here, visible as cropmarks and as earthworks on lidar imagery, making up a larger group. Consider extending and/or combining Scheduled areas to east and northwest.
Possible medieval wood bank/ deer park, High Wood, Lytchett Matravers	High Wood, Lytchett Matravers, Dorset		SY 92933 97145	Well-preserved banked enclosure, possible wood bank or previously unrecognised deer park, visible on lidar imagery and potentially medieval in date. Ground survey to assess and consider for significance and possible Scheduling.
Cross-ridge dyke on Rawston Down	Rawston Down, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset	1002462	ST 91827 06553	The feature extends further south and is visible as earthworks on lidar imagery, also it extends further north, visible as cropmarks. Ground survey to assess and consider extending Scheduled area.
Causewayed enclosure and Iron Age defended settlement with	Buzbury Rings, Tarrant Keyneston, Dorset	1002718	ST 91950 05977	The enclosure is associated with a field system and several linear earthworks/dykes, as well as additional features (such as enclosure/possible barrow MDO28036) visible as earthworks on lidar imagery, centred on SY 91547 05583. Their association and relationship would

Description	Place	List-No.	NGR	Recommendation
outworks called Buzbury Rings				merit ground survey and assessment to consider extent of Scheduling for Buzbury Rings.
Deer Park Pale in Stubb's Coppice, Hogstock Coppice and Sing Close Coppice	Tarrant Rushton, Dorset	1019952	ST 95542 06757	Assess Scheduled area for accuracy, particularly on the west side where lidar imagery shows earthworks potentially associated with the park pale beyond its western extent. Lidar also suggests the deer trap might be positioned further towards the east side. Consider ground survey of the north side of the deer park where lidar imagery reveals further linear earthworks, possibly of the park pale, and possibly the medieval parish boundary.
Long Barrow and a Round Barrow Cemetery at Telegraph Clump on Blandford Race Down	Blandford Race Down, Tarrant Launceston and Tarrant Hinton, Dorset	1020955	ST 92146 09496	Assess extent of Scheduled Area to west, to include a further possible Bronze Age barrow (MDO44845), visible on lidar imagery. The location of the easternmost barrow to the north is potentially too far north and is closer to being centred at ST 92250 09435. Ground survey to assess the long barrow and the extent of any modification or additional features associated with military activity during the World Wars, or any potential use/association with the Napoleonic telegraph station at this location.

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